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NEWS BRIEFS

CRUMP WILL 'BRING HONEST GOVERNMENT TO THE PEOPLE'

NEWARK—Placing her hat into what will be the most contested mayoral race in the State, Councilwoman at large Mildred Crump launched her campaign for mayor of the City of Newark. Crump chose the South Ward to make the announcement of her campaign. In her speech she said, "I am not running to make history. I am running because of the rich history of this city. I believe that sense of history has been lost and I say 'enough is enough.' I am not afraid of the challenge before me."

BANNING AFRICAN-AMERICAN AUTHORS IN MARYLAND

BALTIMORE—Books written by prominent African-American authors have been removed from high school English classes in two Maryland schools.

Called "anti-white" and "trash" by some parents, Maya Angelou's autobiographical "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" has been removed from the ninth grade English curriculum in Anne Arundel County, and "Song of Solomon" has been removed in St. Mary's County. Parents and educators who favor keeping the words have expressed dismay that such a small group of parents could wield such influence over a curriculum.

UNANIMOUS VOTE MAKES HURT NEW ESSEX PROSECUTOR

THRENTON—After a hearing that took no more than 10 minutes, the Senate Judiciary Committee confirmed Patricia Hurt to be the next Essex County Prosecutor.

Hurt said she hopes to begin her duties by the end of the month. If approved, she plans as one of the first goals of her office to consolidate sections of the office that handle child abuse, domestic violence, sexual abuse and Megan's Law cases under a single unit, cutting down on duplication of work and increasing efficiency.

PAYNE SWORN IN AS ASSEMBLYMAN OF THE 29TH DISTRICT

NEWARK—William D. Payne of Newark was sworn into office as an assemblyman representing the 29th Legislative District.

Prepared to help push an agenda for lower car insurance rates, property tax reform, better public schools and a higher minimum wage, Payne was the chairman of the committee that resulted in the election of his brother, Donald, as New Jersey's first African-American member of Congress. "I will work diligently to ensure strong voices of representation in Trenton for the District's working families," he said.

Special Section Inside:

There's a college for you

Live's Mayor: Exploding Myths

By Dr. Earl Ofari Hutchinson

The news that "Eve's Bayou" was the most commercially successful independent produced film in 1997 should be cause for much rejoicing. It showed that an independent film with an all-black cast, stans the ancient ball-throwing of crime/dope/guns/freaky sex/corruption/corruption/human wrecks that for too many Hollywood films traditionally reserves almost exclusively for blacks, can do well at the box office. But, equally important "Eve's Bayou" shattered two other myths. Writer-director Kasi Lemmons echoed the first myth when

she remarked that "you can't really point to any film and say this proves that this film will attract a white audience. What examples can you use?" Lemmons seemed doubtful that whites would go to see all black films. But why? For decades whites have packed concerts featuring black artists, hailed black sports figures, embraced black divas, praised the works of black writers, poets, and playwrights. If a film is well-crafted, and compelling, there is no reason why whites wouldn't or shouldn't crowd the theaters to see it. Spielberg's "Amistad" is a good example. Despite its painful, and still controversial theme, of black slavery,

from initial box office reports a sizable percentage of those who went to see it were white. The second myth is that independent, all-black films are doomed to fail commercially. In the 1930s, pioneer black filmmaker Oscar Micheaux made independent films with a small budget and no major studio backing, or distribution deals. The films didn't present the stereotypical "Amos n' Andy," "Steptoe" comedy, or jump-cutty song and dance depictions of blacks prevalent in that era. The films were dramas, westerns, and detective movies. They employed hundreds of black actors, actresses and technicians

and were financially successful. In the 1960s, the critically acclaimed independent, "Not a Part of My Country," But A Man," about the struggles of a working black couple enjoyed good support. Cinema did not wait for or beg Hollywood to bankroll his anti-slavery epic, "Sankofa." He proved that a commercially successful independent black film can be made and can create jobs and opportunities for dozens of blacks. Actor Tim Reid failed to interest major studios in his film, "Once Upon A Time When We Were Colored," about the fight of blacks in a small southern town against poverty and

segregation. Yet, it still had a considerable run in theaters and was warmly received by black and non-black audiences. There are several reasons why independent black filmmakers can have success with their films. Black critics' tremendous clout at the box office. It is estimated that black moviegoers buy an estimated one out of four movie tickets. And more blacks have the wealth and willingness to invest their money in films that portray positive images of blacks. Spike Lee tapped a bevy of prominent black

See EVE'S BAYOU/ page 10

Livingston Coalition hosts mayoral race

By g. mattox

The first salvo in what promises to be a contentious mayoral battle in Livingston took place last week in a sparsely attended but informative gathering held at Livingston High School.

This mayoral forum was hosted by the Livingston Black Association Coalition, a group numbering about 200 people in the city.

Although invitations were sent out to all five candidates in December to participate in the forum, only Calvin Taylor, a city resident who has an accounting and financial planning business in South Orange, and Jay Walker, a lawyer and a 17 year resident of the city, participated in the event.

Mayor Sara Best, who is up for reelection, sent her regrets via a letter to Coalition chairperson Denise McDaniels, citing a previous engagement. Billal Beasley and David Lyons, both members of the City Council, also announced candidacies who did not attend the meeting.

Both Taylor and Walker say that they are running for mayor because they have a commitment to the township of Livingston, and a concern over the quality of life.

Taylor said, "We are all here tonight because we are running. The current administration cannot add one and one." He said that his priority if elected mayor is to put the city on a sound financial footing.

Walker described his desire to be mayor as a "candidacy for change." "Like so many of you, I am concerned about the rising tax rate and other problems in this city that need to be corrected."

Coalition members asked a series of questions to the candidates that included ways to lower property tax rates that received the largest increase of any municipality in 1996, senior citizen safety and recreation, the education of Livingston's children, and their views on having private enterprise develop a chemical plant inside the township.

In order to reduce property taxes, Taylor said he would sell off city owned property and look for ways to trim the budget. "I will cut out all the 'junk'—Walker disagreed that there is an excess in the budget, and looks towards its overall stabilization with specific reductions in the police and fire departments.

Walker believes that the increased participation of the Senior Citizens is key to the advancement of their safety and access to increased community activities. "Senior Citizens must become more actively involved and make their voices known. They must be part of the development," he says. Walker is adamant about applying for State and Federal Grants that are targeted for Seniors. "We are paying taxes and nothing is coming back to us as citizens. He continues, "Somebody is asleep in the grant application department."

One of the Coalition members stated that the Livingston school district is currently one step away from a state takeover, and asked the two candidates

what they would propose to stop this from happening. Taylor is of the opinion that there is an overall lack of accountability and Livingston must become more active in getting needed state funding for building and classroom renovation and equipment upgrades. He feels that the state does not want to give control of these funds to the local municipalities. "Trust me, everything is about money," he says.

On the other hand, Walker feels that the inadequacies of the school system indicate deeper problems on the outside that must be addressed, and a better education starts with discipline and care in the home. "No child can learn if they are hungry, or if they are victims of physical or psychological abuse," he says.

Perhaps the most interesting comments of the evening pertained to the further development and expansion of a chemical waste farm in the township on Valley Road.

"Obviously, I am against it," Walker replied, "but people are more informed about the effects of chemicals in the environment. But I find it appalling that this type of question should even be brought up. I like to think that we are beyond that type of discussion."

"I would chase them out of town," Taylor says. Noting he had once worked for a major chemical corporation in South Jersey, he asked the crowd, "Has anybody here heard of Toms River?" referring to the high incidences of cancer in that township that were attributed to chemical waste. "We don't want to have another Toms River in Livingston."

Plainfield council members backs deputy and counsel positions

PLAINFIELD—City Council members support the ordinance funding the positions of Deputy City Administrator and Corporation Counsel.

Fourth Ward Councilman Mitchell stated that the funding of these two positions is particularly critical at this time. There is no doubt that a vigorous program of redevelopment is essential to bring in revenues and move Plainfield forward. I promised the people of the Fourth Ward that economic development, the Fourth Ward as well as downtown would be my priority. We will never be able to provide any relief to the taxpayers unless great strides are made in this area. We desperately need someone in this position to provide leadership and coordinate our development efforts."

Council President Malcolm Dunn cited the savings of more than \$100,000 in the new fiscal year by funding an in-house corporation counsel. "We must be resourceful and not afraid to try anything new, we cannot afford to have a budget crisis. It is to be minimize the effect on our property taxes. Funding these two positions would ultimately result in savings to the taxpayers."

On January 1, several council members voted to table the Deputy City Administrator position saying adding people during a budget crisis is to be minimize the effect on our property taxes. Funding these two positions would ultimately result in savings to the taxpayers."

\$3 Billion in free money for schools

By John William Templeton

SAN FRANCISCO — The nation's poorest schools and libraries have a two-month deadline to receive a 90 percent discount on everything from telephones to cable to wireless and satellite access.

Beginning Jan. 1, 1998 any school with more than 75 percent of its students receiving subsidized lunches can apply to take Uncle Sam, more specifically the Federal Communications Commission, pay for 90 percent of their telecommunications services, even retroactively from the beginning of an existing contract.

The application forms for the e-rate arrived during the holiday season, but principals would do well not to miss this package. The completed application has to be returned to a new organization called the Schools and Libraries Corp. by mid-March. The address is P.O. Box 4217, Los Angeles, CA 90018.

Iowa, 52244-4217 or by http://www.neca.org/funds. The toll free customer number to answer questions concerning the Universal Service Application for Schools and Libraries is 888-203-8100.

Applications were sent to every school and library in the United States. The amount of the discount varies based on the percentage of poor students being served. Schools with 50 percent of its student population receiving free lunches get an 80 percent discount. Schools with no poor students get a 25 percent discount.

But there is a big catch. Each school must complete a technology plan that describes how they will use computers, wireless technology, cable, and distance learning. Only schools that have completed such a plan will qualify for the discount.

Ironically, the schools that receive the biggest discounts are the ones who for other reasons.

plan. Books a'Byes, the technology alliance for African-American students, discovered that the 4,200 schools with 75 percent or more African-American students had a 14 percent lower computer to student ratio than the national average.

The dilemma is that the schools generally face even bigger problems. One-third have no library and many face serious building code violations and overcrowding. The FCC universal service plan, developed with the urging of FCC Chairman William Kennard and Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Telecommunications Larry Irving, both African-Americans, addresses both parts of that equation. It not only provides more communications services but also the schools more money to use for other things.

Marlin Luther King, Jr. Day Events

ASBURY PARK The Seacoast Missionary Baptist Mass Choir at St. Martin and Meridian Health System will provide free health screening at a Marlin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Observance. January 19, 10:30 a.m. at St. Stephens A.M.E. Zion Church, Prospect Street and Springfield Avenue. 732-992-1624.

BROOKLYN, NY The award winning Love Fellowship Choir and the Inner Spirit Choir will be featured in A Brooklyn Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Come Share the Dream. Tickets are free and available on a first come, first served basis. January 19 at 10:30 a.m. at The Brooklyn Academy of Music, 30 Lafayette Avenue. Call 718-636-4179.

NEWARK The Newark North Jersey Committee of Black Churchmen will sponsor its annual Marlin King, Jr. Birthday celebration. Monday, January 19, 11 a.m. at St. Luke's A.M.E. Church, 146 Clinton Avenue. Call 973-484-3030.

Mayor Sharp James, the Newark City Council and the Committee for a Unified South Ward are among those hosting the first annual South Ward Tribute to Marlin Luther King, Jr. The affair will feature the inaugural "Keeping the Dream Alive" awards, in which eight people will be honored. January 19 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at the George Washington Carver Elementary School, 331 Clinton Place. Call 973-733-8058.

The Reverend Dr. James A. Scott of Bethany Baptist Church will present a Marlin King, Jr. Annual Lecture Thursday, January 22 at the Newark Public Library, 5 Washington Street. Call 973-733-7167.

The Clinton-South Ward

Improvement Association. Inc. will present the 14th Annual Awards breakfast in honor of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Monday, January 19 at 9 a.m. at the Metropolitan Baptist Church, 149 Springfield Avenue. Tickets are \$25. Call 973-373-1183.

ORANGE The United Clergy of the Oranges will host its Annual Marlin Luther King Service of Celebration. Reverend Calvin Butts of Abyssinian Baptist Church will be the guest speaker. Sunday, January 18 at 7 p.m. at St. Matthews A.M.E. Church 336 Oakwood Avenue. Call 973-678-1217.

A candlelight vigil. Thursday, January 15 at 3 p.m. at City Hall, 29 North Street. Call 973-266-4925.

PERTH AMBOY Bishop Donald Hilliard, Jr. and Reverend DeForest "Butter" Soares will co-host a King Day service dedicated to the memory of Dr. Samuel DeWitt Proctor. Monday, January 19, 3 p.m. at the Cathedral-Second Baptist Church, 277 Madison Avenue. Call 908-822-5293.

PLAINFIELD The Plainfield Area Club of Frontiers International and the Police Community Athletic League will co-sponsor a Marlin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast. Aldridge Cooper, vice president of corporate affairs, Johnson & Johnson, will be the guest speaker. January 19, 9 a.m. at the Plainfield High School Cafeteria, 950 Park Avenue. Call 908-756-4661.

The Central Jersey Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will present a "Embrace His Dream," a musical salute to the life and work of Dr. King. Friday, January 16, 7 p.m. at the Crescent Theatre, 3600 Plainfield Avenue, 7616 Watchung Avenue. Call 908-903-3163.

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

EDISON—An open house will be held at the Middlesex County College Department of Continuing Studies from 6 to 8 p.m. For more info, call 732-925-2523.

ATLANTIC CITY—The largest indoor display of works north of Miami will mark the Atlantic City International Power Boat Show through Jan. 18. The show opens from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more info, call 215-732-8001.

NEWARK—NJ State Council on the Arts will have a grant workshop for FY98 SPS & PSA Applicants 10 a.m. at the NJ Performing Arts Center. To reserve space, contact Jeffrey Norman at 973-623-4224.

MORRISTOWN—NJ State Council on the Arts will have a grant workshop for FY98 SPS & PSA Applicants 2 p.m. at the Morris Museum. To reserve space, contact Kathy Sutherland at 973-538-0545, ext. 224.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

NEW YORK—An exhibition representing the first in-depth examination of Arthur Dove's work in more than 20 years will open at the Whitney Museum of American Art through April 12, 1998. For more info, call 212-570-3633.

NEWARK—The Newark Literacy Campaign is seeking volunteers to become reading partners for adults, teenagers and children. Volunteer training and orientation will take place today, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Newark Public Library. For more info, call 973-623-4001.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

NEWARK—Public and Community Schools Conference from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Essex County College, Main building, 4th floor. Same day registration.

MILVILLE—NJ State Council on the Arts will have a grant workshop for FY98 SPS & PSA Applicants at 11 a.m. at the Whistler Village, Crafts Classroom. To reserve space, call 609-624-6800, ext. 2731.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

PLAINFIELD—Twentieth Century Artists' Exhibition Posters will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Swain Galleries. For more info, call 908-753-1707.

METUCHEN—A Kids Forum at Forum Theatre will present "School House Rock Live!" at 11 a.m. For more info, call 732-548-0582.

HACKENSACK—The KCAAP, Kumba Community Activity Projects' monthly program will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. at Majestic Elys Lodge #153. For more info, call 201-487-5559.

TEANECK—A Defensive Driving Course will be held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the

Community Health Services Bldg., Holy Name Hospital. For more info, call 201-833-3186.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

NEWARK—The Newark Literacy Campaign is seeking volunteers to become reading partners for adults, teenagers and children. Volunteer training and orientation will take place today, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Newark Public Library. For more info, call 973-623-4001.

RED BANK—NJ State Council on the Arts will have a grant workshop for FY98 SPS & PSA Applicants at 11 a.m. at the Monmouth County Arts Council. To reserve space, call Mary Foust at 732-624-6776.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

CRANFORD—Union County College will introduce a three-credit history course on the Civil War. For more info, call 908-709-7533.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

NEWARK—The Newark Literacy Campaign is seeking volunteers to become reading partners for adults, teenagers and children. Volunteer training and orientation will take place today, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Newark Public Library. For more info, call 973-623-4001.

CAMDEN—NJ State Council on the Arts will have a grant workshop for FY98 SPS & PSA Applicants at 10 a.m. at the South Jersey Performing Arts Center. To reserve space, call Barbara Penhagen 609-342-6553.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

WATCHUNG—Nube Sante will cover both two- and three-dimensional art during Friday morning sessions. For more info, call 908-753-0190.

WESTFIELD—If you are in grades three through five and want to learn about cats, join the 441 Cat Club. The club's first meeting is from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the 441 office. For more info, call 908-654-8654.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

EAST BRUNSWICK—Children have the opportunity to win tickets to New Jersey Nets, Philadelphia 76ers, Rutgers and Seton Hall University basketball games when they sign up for the NJ Nets Basketball Blast from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more info, call 800-468-0227.

METUCHEN—A Kids Forum at Forum Theatre will present "School House Rock Live!" at 11 a.m. For more info, call 732-548-0582.

NEW BRUNSWICK—State Theatre announces 1998 professional development workshops for teachers, "Exploring Drama: from an Interdisciplinary Perspective" from 4 to 7 p.m. For more info, call 732-247-7200, ext. 513.

IBF Champion Imamu Mayfield Presented Championship Belt

NEW BRUNSWICK—The renowned Crossroads Theater in New Brunswick was the venue for a community-wide celebration recently, honoring Imamu Mayfield, the new International Boxing Federation Cruiserweight Champion Of The World. Imamu, known as "The Pride Of New Brunswick," launched into the national spotlight last November when he defeated the then champion Uriah Grant, winning a unanimous decision, in the opener of the pay-per-view card in Las Vegas, Nevada. Mayfield—in his first fight since the death of his late manager, trainer and friend, Curtis Ford—defied all odds, and fulfilled his dream.

The celebration involved Robert W. Lee, the President and Commissioner of the International Boxing Federation, who will present the Championship Belt to Imamu Mayfield in front of his hometown.



Cruiserweight Champion Imamu Mayfield

Also, there was commentary from boxing notables like Larry Hazzard, N.J. State Boxing Commissioner. Other program highlights included proclamations presented to Mayfield from state and local officials as well as from various community organizations.

NHA scholarship foundation receives \$202,600



NEWARK—The success of the Newark Housing Authority (NHA) Scholarship Foundation was recently augmented by a \$202,600 donation from First Union Bank, which will "go a long way toward making sure that people like Taneya Harrison, at left, get decent shot at higher education," said NHA Executive Director Harold Lucas, in photo at center, upon receiving the check from Jerome (Jerry) Orsco, at right, executive vice president and director of public affairs/government for First Union.

Nationally-known Metaphysician Predicts challenges

DALE CITY, VA.—The close of the 20th century will bring both challenges and opportunities to the planet and its inhabitants, predicts the Rev. Hazel Cassell, a metaphysician based in Dale City, Va. In her annual release of predictions for the new year and beyond, Rev. Cassell, who has offered predictions since 1964, sees for the near future:

• Golf champion Tiger Woods will travel the lecture circuit, earning millions of dollars. He will become a best-selling author and spiritual guru, but he must mature and learn how to control his emotions.

• Basketball superstar Shaquille O'Neal will retire and increase his wealth with investments in the Caribbean. He will begin a manufacturing company employing many disadvantaged people.

• Dennis Rodman will be sidetracked by injury and depression. An unwise decision may land him in jail. Rodman will publish new books that bring his wealth, but much criticism. He may also be accused of an alleged sex crime.

• George Foreman's ministry will grow and generate funding for his pro-

Officer Esther Guzman-Malcolm promoted



ELIZABETH—Esther Guzman-Malcolm was promoted to Lieutenant in the Union County Sheriff's Office. Lt. Guzman-Malcolm has 24 years on the job and resides in Roselle with her husband Fran, who is also a Sheriff's Officer. Her new assignment is supervision of the S.L.A.P. program. This program, which gives non-violent offenders an opportunity to work their debt off to society in lieu of incarceration has saved the taxpayers \$3 million since its inception three years ago.

Seventh graders go to science museum



NEWARK—Summit Bank sponsored a trip to the Liberty Science Museum (LSM) for approximately 250 seventh graders from Anne Street and Mt. Vernon public schools in Newark. N.J. This pilot program with Newark and LSM will benefit 3,000 students located in the city's 38 districts. Summit Vice President MaryLou Barreiro, at left, makes her move in 3-D interactive as Yeamin, right, of Mt. Vernon looks on.

THIRD ANNUAL CITY NEWS



Recognizing the 100 Most Influential who have fostered the progress of black people or the rebuilding of New Jersey's urban centers

In nominating a person(s) for the award, you must identify yourself and give a phone number where you can be reached. The Third Annual 100 Most Influential award will be held the first week in May.

Nomination Form

All information is confidential. The deadline is January 29, 1998

Nominee's name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Bus. Phone _____

Fax _____

Briefly describe why you feel your nominee has contributed significantly to the progress of black people in New Jersey or to the rebuilding of New Jersey's urban centers.

How do you know this person _____

Send to: City News 100, PO Box 191, Plainfield, NJ 07060 or fax to (908) 753-1036

Nominee Categories— Please check one category:

Civil Rights _____

Community Development _____

Corporate Community Involvement _____

Economic Development _____

Education _____

Minority Business Enterprise _____

Media Journalism _____

Arts & Culture _____

Religion _____

Health, Science & Technology _____

Entertainment & Sports _____

Politics, Law & Government _____

Your name _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Who are New Jersey's 100 Most Influential?

• Individuals who contribute significantly to the progress of black people in the state of New Jersey

• Individuals who use their success to uplift the black communities of New Jersey

• Individuals who use their positions to promote good corporate citizenship

• Individuals who selflessly do extraordinary community service

• Individuals who not only understand the critical importance of rebuilding New Jersey's urban communities, but also commit significant time and resources to urban revitalization

City News Publishing Company

presents

The Third Annual

City News

100 Most Influential

May 1998

6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

For tickets and information call

(908) 754-3400

NATIONAL BRIEFS

DRUG-RELATED EMERGENCY ROOM CASES DECLINE

WASHINGTON—Health and Human Services Secretary Donna F. Shalala released data late last year showing an overall six percent decline nationally in drug-related emergency room cases from 1995 to 1996 (from 517,800 to 487,600). The number of cases had steadily increased from 1990 through 1995. "These results are another hopeful sign of progress in our efforts against drugs. But they also signal that our work to prevent substance abuse and treat addiction is far from finished," said Shalala. The data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN), an ongoing national survey of hospital emergency departments, provided emergency department estimates from 21 metropolitan areas. Between 1994 and 1996 decreases were seen in five cities: Boston (20 percent—15,200 to 12,100), Denver (28 percent—5,000 to 3,600), New York (10 percent—43,100 to 35,400), San Francisco (12 percent—11,800 to 10,400) and Washington, D.C. (20 percent—14,200 to 11,300). On the other hand, increases were seen in two cities during the same time period: New Orleans (19 percent—4,700 to 5,800) and Newark (seven percent—10,400 to 10,100). Nationally, the most frequently recorded reason for a drug-related emergency department visit was "overdose" (239,100).

AFRICAN-AMERICAN ATHLETES HOST EMPOWERMENT DAY

WASHINGTON—The National Alliance of African-American Athletes (The Alliance), will host its 9th annual African-American Male Empowerment Day on Saturday, Feb. 1, 1998 with a kickoff in Washington, D.C. The event first began in 1990 when The Alliance sought to bring attention to the dilemmas facing African-American athletes. Its goal remains the same: To create a political movement, events and educational programs to encourage public officials, schools, corporate America and individuals to initiate activities to address issues facing African-American males as well as athletes who will ultimately empower them. For details about the day's events call F. Willis Johnson at 317-233-3854 or Nathan Pringle at 317-783-2590.

MAGAZINE PROBES STATE OF BLACK HEALTH IN AMERICA

WASHINGTON—When it comes to the health of African-Americans, there is more cause for worry than celebration. The news worth applauding is that African-Americans have experienced a general improvement in their health in the 1990s, compared to a decade ago. The bad news is that Blacks still find themselves lagging behind Whites in almost every health category, according to the cover story in the Jan/Feb. 1998 issue of *HealthQuest*. The February issue of *Black Health*. The article, titled "The State of Black Health," examines the disparities between the health of black and white Americans. For both groups, the leading causes of death are heart disease, cancer and stroke. The disparities end there. Deaths associated with HIV/AIDS have become a more prominent health issue for blacks than for whites, according to the article.

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

CANADIAN AWARD A BOOST FOR JAMAICAN WRITERS

By Howard Campbell

KINGSTON, Jamaica (IPS)—Members of Jamaica's small literary community are rejoicing over the award of Canada's highest literary honor to author Rachel Manley. Manley, the daughter of former Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley (He died from prostate cancer in March 1997), won the Governor General of Canada Award on November 1997 for "Drumblair" (Pan Random Publishers), her book about her childhood at the Manley family home in Kingston. "Drumblair" topped the non-fiction category, beating 167 other entrants and placing its author among an elite group of winners of one of Canada's most cherished awards.

The fact that "Drumblair" is Manley's first full-length novel adds significance to the award. Prior to "Drumblair," her experience in the literary field was through three books of poetry and the editing of her grandmother's (Edna Manley) diaries.

Wall Street to close on MLK Holiday

By Kendall Wilson

The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) will not only cease its long-time policy of doing business even during the observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, but will also pursue other initiatives that stem from King's crusade for economic parity. The Wall Street Journal reported that the Big Board will close on Jan. 19, 1998, a move that was met with great satisfaction from Rev. Jesse Jackson, other civil rights leaders and some Blacks on Wall Street who had been critical of the Exchange's previous posture.

Jackson, who is credited with leading the lobbying effort for the holiday observance, also has Wall Street listen-

ing to his campaign to achieve greater diversity in the nation's financial picture.

From the platform of his Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, which opened on Wall Street—near the Big Board—in early 1997, Jackson has persuaded NYSE chairman Richard Grasso and Travelers Group chairman Sanford Weill, to sponsor several days of workshops and a fund-raiser on the floor of the Exchange to raise awareness (along with money) for the lobbying effort, known as the Wall Street Project.

Jackson's contention has been that the securities industry is still dominated by white males, and in lobbying for greater diversity at the Exchange he is pushing for more upper-level jobs and

greater access to capital for Black- and other minority-owned businesses. He is also seeking to raise the level of sophistication of Black consumers, who traditionally have not invested heavily in securities.

Officials of Salomon Smith-Barney say their interest in the Wall Street Project is driven by one simple motivation: "...we think it's good for business."

"We support diversity in the workplace," the officials said, adding that the workshops will help minorities and women meet executives of major Wall Street firms. Jackson, Group spokesman said the firm was "supportive of the concept of building bridges."

Luther King Center for Nonviolent Social Change, and founder of the Philadelphia Martin Luther King Center, sees the Exchange's decision as a "wonderful gift." "This makes me more optimistic that finally, as the song predicted, 'We Shall Overcome,' because on that day a powerful, symbolic message will be sent across the nation and around the world. This brings great hope for the new year and is truly a gift to make Dr. King's dream a reality," Dr. Teja Banks Brayboy, executive director of the Philadelphia King Center, agreed.

"After 15 years (in persuading the Exchange) we have a major signal that the King holiday is being recognized as a national holiday," she said.

"Many have criticized it as being only another commercial day and some states—a few—have not acknowledged it."

"But now that Wall Street sends it message, we have the signal to the business community, to the nation and the world that this is a special day for all," Brayboy said.

Michael Meyers, executive director of the New York Civil Rights Coalition, told the Wall Street Journal that while he supports Jackson's broad-based effort, including the holiday observance, he was not certain what could be gained by closing down the Exchange.

"In pursuing Dr. King's dream, I would prefer that people work through the day," he said. "Symbolism is good, but not good enough."

Young Entrepreneurs Program now at Clark Atlanta University

ATLANTA—Representatives from Mitsubishi Motors, the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) and Clark Atlanta University (CAU) gathered today to announce a joint effort to provide minority students entrepreneurial education and opportunity through the Mitsubishi Motors Young Entrepreneurs Program.

The Mitsubishi Motors Young Entrepreneurs Program is a special-ized educational program that introduces minority students to entrepreneurial professions as an alternative to more traditional career paths. The program, launched at Clark Atlanta University's School of Business Administration, is open to students attending UNCF colleges or universities, or one of the Hispanic American Colleges and Universities (HACU). Students selected for the program will receive skills necessary to become successful business leaders and gain insight and exposure to specific

opportunities within the automotive industry.

The Mitsubishi Motors Young Entrepreneurs Program entails a Summer Institute, Dealer Mentor Assignment and Mitsubishi Motors Fellowship. The Summer Institute includes a five-week educational program addressing critical skills for success in business through classroom lectures, short exercises, group projects and interaction with successful business professionals from different industries. After successful completion of the Summer Institute, Mitsubishi Motors will award students a \$5,000 scholarship.

Following the Summer Institute, students are paired with a Mitsubishi Motors dealer who will introduce them to all phases of dealership operations. Once assigned to a mentor, Mitsubishi Motors will award students a \$2,500 stipend.

Battling Black farmers gear up for January 26 court date

By Ken Morgan
—Special to the NNPA

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On Jan. 26, African-American farmers will get another day in court, when U.S. District Court Judge Paul Friedman assesses the progress of settlements between black farmers and the U.S. government, as well as the adequacy of the mediation process between the two.

Last month over 70 black farmers and their supporters filed Friedman's courtroom in proceedings on the issue. Then, Friedman gave the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) 30 days to develop a speedy way to resolve hundreds of discrimination complaints lodged by black farmers or be confronted with a trial date. He also approved a government request that the 1,000-plus cases being mediated be done on a case by case basis, as opposed to being dealt with as a group within six months.

Black farmers are losing 9,000 acres per week, according to reports. Between 1920 and 1992, black farms decreased from 225,000 to 18,816. Government statistics show that black farmers are going out of business at three times the rate of their white counterparts. The average income of a black farmer is one-third that of whites, while poverty rates for the black farmer are 20 percent higher than whites.

As far as financing goes, an Associated Press (AP) analysis looking at lending practices between 1980 and 1992, revealed that black farmers

receive 51 cents for every dollar loaned to whites. Over that period, the number of loans dropped by 66 percent for white farmers and 82 percent for black farmers.

According to several advocacy groups and agricultural experts, some of the black farm loss can be attributed to the devastating conditions confronting small family farmers such as government policies favoring corporate, big business farmers, low prices, and natural disasters.

Now, black farmers are looking to President Clinton to help solve the problem. On Dec. 17, a meeting took place between the group and the president. When possible, "Earlier in the day, Secretary Glickman also announced plans to seek new money through the 1999 budget request for minority farmers. "This is a day late and a dollar short," stated Walter Powell, a Louisiana farmer.

Clinton, according to an AP wire report, Clinton promised, "I will do everything I can within my legal authority to accelerate the settlement of these outstanding cases. I will do everything I can to bring moral and political pressure to bear when possible." Earlier in the day, Secretary Glickman also announced plans to seek new money through the 1999 budget request for minority farmers. "This is a day late and a dollar short," stated Walter Powell, a Louisiana farmer.

They are going to again give President Clinton another chance to do the right thing. On the morning of Jan. 26, black farmers will present him a petition signed by black farmers and their supporters saying "do what you said you were going to do," said farmers' spokesperson.

For more information, contact Gary Grant at 919-826-3017. Black farmers who want to be a part of the suit should call 1-800-442-FARM.

Washington Tennis Foundation gets \$25,000 donation



WASHINGTON, D.C.—Star Enterprise presented the Washington Tennis Foundation with \$25,000 at Minor Elementary School in Washington, DC, which will be used to support the Arthur Ashe Tennis Program. During the presentation, some of the children who have benefited from the program pose with, from left, Coach Willis Thomas; Mike Diebus, district manager, Star Enterprises; Tommy Simon, division manager for Star Enterprises; Jennifer Brown Simon, executive director of the Washington Tennis Foundation; Paul Ignatius, Washington Tennis Foundation Development committee chair; and Angela Tiftman, principal of Minor Elementary School.

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Plan ahead to use a precious resource

The mayoral elections in Newark and Irvington this year are shaping up to be as active, lively and combative as any has been in a while. There are others around the state that will probably be just as busy. Right now, there are several candidates for the job in each city. All of them claim to have the best plan to serve the people—each just has a different way of reaching their objectives.

You may think that it is a bit early to think about this subject, but by the time the campaign season is down upon you, you will need the campaign calls on the phone, it is just about too late. The issues in these elections are the usual ones: crime, education, taxes. All these candidates will tell you how they will remedy this situation if they are elected. But how can you know that they will do what they say?

The only way you can be sure that you and your community can get what it deserves and taxpayers deserve their money's worth is to start now to study the candidates. Check their track record and don't listen to what they say, find out what they have done for the community. Too often we vote a party line, or a familiar face, or feel someone must be in the job because they've been in the job—hardly the best reason for a person to be in office. When the time comes, don't give your vote away, and don't let it go so cheap. As we look towards African-American History Month remember what a lot of our people had to give up to get the chance.

Part I: Dr. King's legacy and the consequences of racism

By Dr. Lenora Fulani

The civil rights movement of the 1950's and 1960's was the racism in America. That movement was an independent movement, a grassroots movement led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and followed by thousands of activists, attorneys, and students. Dr. King was not a Democrat — with a capital "D" — and was not a Democratic Party movement, though the Democratic Party did succeed in coopting it and taking credit for its achievements.

Throughout the struggles which led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which were propelled through Congress by Lyndon B. Johnson — not by the liberal establishment the Democratic Party was embracing. The Democrats, after all, had constructed an electoral coalition that relied heavily on Southern white voters. But once the civil rights movement independently led — galvanized the country, the Democratic Party figured out how to consolidate it and opportunist of it.

But the 30 years that followed the elimination of structural racism were years — not of healing — but of confusion and despair. The Democratic Party was eager to transcend all of the social movements of the 1960s into its political subsidiaries and to run the identity politics — the elevation of and competition among fractured segments of the population based on racial, cultural, gender, ideological and sexual identity. In order to do so.

This modus operandi served the interests of the Democrats and the Republicans as well, who quickly learned how to play this game on the

1998 Brings Financial HOPE for College students and their families

By Thomas H. Brown, Ph.D.

As the new year begins, prospective college students and their families should be aware of the fact that there is a new financial aid program that reduces the financial obstacles that come with the pursuit of a higher education.

Established in 1998, The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, provides for a HOPE "scholarship" for eligible students pursuing the first two years of college. The HOPE scholarship is not a "scholarship," but a tax credit, students may be eligible for 100 percent of the first \$1,000 of tuition and fees and 50 percent of the second \$1,000 through the mechanism of their federal income tax return.

The actual amount of the credit depends on the family or individual income, the amount of qualified tuition and fees paid, and the amount of federal scholarship and other allowances subtracted from tuition. Eligible individuals may claim the credit when they file their federal income tax forms in April, 1999 for college expenses incurred and paid during tax year 1998.

To qualify, students must be enrolled in at least six credit hours in a degree, certificate or other program leading to a recognized education credential. HOPE applies to tuition and fees and, for those who qualify, it can substantially reduce the costs of a college career.

"right" — but not the interests of the country. As the Democrats promoted various oppressed grouping for their own political purposes, the Republicans organized the backlash against it, playing on the incomplete social/cultural process left in the wake of the structural elimination of racism and elevating their own identity groupings, e.g. Christian fundamentalists, veterans, pro-lifers, etc. The country needed to have spent the last 30 years creating a new post-racial political culture that could bring the country together. Instead, the two parties spent the last 30 years tearing the country apart, while taking extreme measures to preserve and institutionalize their own political power and that of the corporate and special interests which run America.

This 30 year bipartisan gambit, however, is losing its grip on the American public. There is still much unresolved outrage on the part of Black America which, though still loyal to the Democratic Party, is showing signs of breaking out of its monolithic allegiance. In 1997, Black voters stayed home from the polls in record numbers and sought Republican and independent options in discernible numbers. There is also a new generation of young adults without the civil rights era experience to tie them to the Democratic Party. Black America is communicating a new message to the country that has remained unanswered for 30 years. What do we do now? Where do we go next?

Dr. Lenora Fulani is a leading activist in the Reform Party and chairs the committee for a Unified Republican Party.

Using Union County College as an example, after January 1, 1998, if a student is a first-time freshman, 12 credits during the spring semester, 6 credits during the summer term, and 12 credits during the fall term, he or she will have completed the first academic year of post secondary education. The cost of tuition and fees for this experience will be \$2,022. HOPE-eligible and not receiving any other financial aid, the student will be able to claim a HOPE scholarship tax credit of \$1,500 on his/her 1998 Federal Tax Return.

The result will be that the student has completed one year of college for a financial investment of only \$1,522... less than the cost of purchasing a home entertainment center, but with much greater returns. One note of caution, as with all tax programs, the HOPE scholarship should not be included in your financial planning portfolio when seeking professional financial advice.

The Spring Semester at Union County College begins on January 21, 1998. We are looking forward to the benefits that the availability of the HOPE scholarship will provide our students.

Thomas H. Brown, Ph.D. is President of Union County College

Health, healing and resources needed in Iraq

By Abdul Alim Muhammad, MD

A natural starting point in the discussion of the health status of Iraq is the sick and infirm are gathered under the care of health professionals. Patients admitted to hospitals and their loved-ones expect that the best treatment possible will be given or the best care possible.

In post-war Iraq the above assumption has been turned on its head by the inhumane sanctions imposed on Iraq's population by the U.N. The U.N. has imposed through political-motivated actions of America and Britain.

Iraqi hospitals, the large, modern teaching hospitals like Al-Mansour in the heart of Baghdad, have become death camps simply because there are no longer any resources. No medicine, no equipment in working order, no light or heat, no oxygen, no food. Nothing that can sustain life is available.

The only resource not in short supply is the human spirit. It can be found in abundance, not only in the families of the stricken, but in the courageous staff of doctors and nurses who struggle daily against all the odds. But, in all too many cases the world is a hostile environment.

Since the end of the Gulf war, 1.4 million Iraqis have died. Predictably, the most vulnerable are the young and the very old. In the under five age group the leading causes of death are respiratory infections, diarrhea and malnutrition.

The American style of success

By James Coleman

When I was a child, my mother told me black people had to be twice as good as people of European ancestry if they wanted to succeed. I never took her advice as a deterrent, just a statement of fact. I chalked it up to understanding the rules of the game.

As in any game, there are rules, obstacles and restrictions. Winners master the rules and excel, while losers complain about the rules and fail.

For example, in the game of baseball, don't have a bad run around while the pitcher is on the mound. And other infielders stay in roughly the same position. They simply learn to move quickly.

Michael Jordan doesn't complain that his opponents do everything they can to stop his scoring, he just does everything he can to out-smart them.

Likewise, we need to realize that racism is not simply a problem to be around. We must simply learn to overcome them.

People will never change their attitudes unless they are given a good reason. Laws and regulations won't always do it, but a fierce determination by those seeking change-coupled with the competitive realities of the marketplace—will.

This is a competitive world, and those who discriminate limit the quality of their employees and clientele. While economic reality will not actually change people's hearts, it will inevitably change their beliefs. As a majority of California voters sought to level the playing field by ending the ideology of government-sponsored race and gender preferences with the passage of Proposition 209 in 1996. The election victory was challenged in court, but the results were upheld on appeal. Now, rather

Among older adults the causes are cardiac, high blood pressure, diabetes, kidney disease, liver diseases and cancer. Infant mortality rates have increased more than 10-fold to 27 per 1,000 live births. Maternal mortality is 117 per 100,000, far beyond pre-sanction levels. And not the lack of resources due to sanctions, who accounts for this enormous increase in the disease and death-rate? According to Iraqi officials there are three major areas to be considered. The effect of sanctions on people, on the environment and the introduction of new kinds of disease.

The environment has also suffered, and it is the environment that must support the population. As mentioned above, there was not just the targeted bombing of the water system, but also sewage and waste treatment facilities. This has caused massive contamination of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Even worse is the illegal use of depleted uranium weapons by the United States and its some of the biggest breakthroughs were pioneered by Blacks. Did you know that the lead engineers for the first big PC, Windows 95 and the Macintosh disk drive were Black?

Black parents are being forced to buy computers for their children because their schools are not equipped with them. There is a 14 percent gap in computers per student at the 4,200 schools with 75 percent of the students are Black. Student bodies compared to the national average, reports QED's Jeanne Hayes in the Los Angeles Times. Now, you're still with it with somebody needs to make those computers and somebody needs to teach them.

Let the sanctions be ignored by governments and non-governmental agencies who know that all human life is sacred and that all of us are held together by the same DNA. Let us sustain and extend life as best we can. Our very notion of a civilized human life is hanging in the balance.

All those who took part in the war or those who support the U.N. sanctions are complicit in genocide. No one is under a moral obligation to assist in these illegal and immoral sanctions. In fact, the most imperative is just the opposite.

Abditi Alim Muhammad, MD is the Minister of Health and Human Services for the Nation of Islam.

A Black Computer Company?

By John William Templeton

Sometimes you can't see the forest for the trees. That is the case with one of the most amazing trends in the African-American consumer market.

Beginning in 1995, African-Americans spent more on computers than they did on televisions, according to the Current Population Surveys of the U.S. Census Bureau—\$89 million to almost \$500 million for televisions. They also spent another 180 million on computer software—equivalent to the amount spent on CD-Roms and other recorded music. When statistics for 1997 are released, the total amount spent on hardware and software is likely to top 1 billion.

Marketing research indicates that most of these computers were bought for students so that they can stay competitive in school.

The ironic aspect of this trend is that it is a total divergence from the tradition of the African-American, which has done worse than nothing to market technology to African-Americans, though some of the biggest breakthroughs were pioneered by Blacks. Did you know that the lead engineers for the first big PC, Windows 95 and the Macintosh disk drive were Black?

Black parents are being forced to buy computers for their children because their schools are not equipped with them. There is a 14 percent gap in computers per student at the 4,200 schools with 75 percent of the students are Black.

Building an information infrastructure in Black communities, can reduce our reliance on outside economic forces and spark the kind of creativity and innovation that brought us the record industry.

As Marvin Gaye might say, "Let's get it on!"

John William Templeton is executive editor of "Grio"

Stemming New Jersey's outmigration tide

By Harold Kichoff

New Jersey's best prepared high school graduates continue to leave the Garden State at an alarming rate to attend colleges and universities elsewhere. By now most people know about the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education's task force findings that some New Jersey students are quietly meeting the needs of college bound high school graduates and that New Jersey should not make the commitment of its best-prepared students a priority. I believe that stemming the tide of outmigration of New Jersey students and retaining the state's best-prepared students are vitally important to New Jersey's future.

In the fall of 1997, 360 New Jersey outstanding student scholars were in TCNJ's class, proportionally more than any other New Jersey school district. These students are recognized in national publications for their excellence and affordability, a direct result of the success in attracting those best-prepared students who would otherwise outmigrate. Frankly, we measure our excellence by the preparation of students, not by our students' purchase of a new car.

The reason for our success is not coincidental. Every teacher knows that well-prepared and motivated students set the tone for achievement and excellence in the classroom and throughout the institution. These students define the level of achievement—the standard, if you will—for all students. By attracting well-prepared students, the quality of education at New Jersey's institutions will increase and the reputation of New Jersey will be enhanced simply because it values achievement in this way.

If nothing else, the embarrassment of the outmigration of our best-prepared students should stir us to be proactive. Yes, the outmigration letter

us something about our values. I have said for years that the most underappreciated segment of our Black population is the academic achiever. We don't need a notebook of data to be sure handed in recounting the stories of parents who have had an obligation to provide their children the skills needed to be successful in life. They spend their resources on private schools or relocate, at considerable expense, to school districts that prepare their students well. That, when their children make the decision to attend college, they must sacrifice more to attend schools outside New Jersey. The debt in many such cases is staggering. Yet they do it. All this says something about their values, on the one hand, and our values as a state, on the other.

The argument here is that New Jersey should not follow the recommendations of the taskforce. Just the opposite. We must invest more of its resources to build for the short and long term future. Nothing, I believe, is more important than an investment in making sure that our best-prepared students are retained. The outstanding student scholars program is a wonderful example of such an investment. Originally sponsored by the State of New Jersey, the program was signed into law by the legislature, and signed into law by the Governor, the program is a major step in making that investment. At a practical level, this program is good for our economy, good for our schools and will prove to be a major step in making sure that well-prepared students graduate in four years or less. It also makes sense as a statement of our values. It says we value achievement.

Harold W. Kichoff is serving his eighth year as president of the College of New Jersey.

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BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

NEW YORK—New York University will have a seminar on International Business, Finance, Trade, and Traffic in Midtown Center, room 601 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more info, call 212-992-1320.

FAIRFIELD—A one-day seminar on how to be a better buyer, for purchase agents, superbrokers, (other managers) will be held at the Radisson Hotel and Suites. To register, call 1-800-821-9212.

NEW YORK—New York University will have a seminar on "Small Business Management" from 8 to 8 p.m. in Room 113. For more info, call 212-992-7217.

BRIDGEWATER—An information breakfast forum will be held on "The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997" at 7:45 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. For more info, call 908-725-1152.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

WEST ORANGE—A breakfast seminar on Employment Discrimination will be presented by legal specialists at 6:30 a.m. at the Mayfair Farms. For more info, call 973-737-7373.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

NEW YORK—The Professional Women of Color present their 3rd anniversary breakfast forum will be held on "The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997" at 7:45 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. For more info, call 212-992-7217.

JERSEY CITY—Jersey City State College will have a "Real Estate Learning Course" from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. by May 2nd. For more info, call 201-200-3068.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

NEW YORK—A three-day course will be held on Electronic Commerce and Electronic Data Interchange. The course runs through Jan. 22nd from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more info, call 212-992-7217.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

NEW YORK—A course on Advanced Negotiations will be held on Jan. 21st, 8 a.m. at the Midtown Center, New York University, Room 413, from 8 to 8 p.m. For more info, call 212-992-7217.

NEW YORK—A course on Fundraising Management and Training will be held at the Midtown Center, New York University, Room 413, from 8 to 8 p.m. For more info, call 212-992-7217.

Money editor shares recommended financial strategies

By Dr. Karen Emsel

In November 1997, over 150 New Jersey residents attended a statewide conference called "Countdown to 2000: Financial Strategies For Your Future" sponsored by Rutgers Cooperative Extension. Richard Eisenberg, executive editor of Money magazine, was the keynote speaker. Below is a summary of Eisenberg's remarks, which focused on five recommended financial strategies to achieve future financial success:

• **Save and Invest Patiently**—Savings and investment should be "automated" so you don't need to remember where and when to make deposits. In other words, arrange to have money deducted from your pay-

check or bank account. Examples include 401(k), 403(b), or Section 457 employer retirement savings plans, pre-authorized mutual fund deposits that transfer funds from a bank account.

• **Cut Your Debt and Spending**—According to Eisenberg, many Americans have developed "nasty debt habits." Fully 57 percent of Americans are paying down credit card bills less quickly than a year ago. Recommended strategies include switching to a lower rate credit card, avoiding the use of high-interest department store cards, seeking low-rate car loans (AAA was mentioned as a possible source), and refinancing your mortgage.

• **Cut Your Taxes**—Recent tax

law changes provide increased incentives to save and opportunities to reduce federal income taxes. Because of the relatively high incomes allowed before the phase out, Roth IRAs (available in 1998) were recommended for most people with earned income. Two other notable tax changes are the decrease in capital gains rates on long-term investments and higher amounts of tax-free capital gains (\$250,000 singles; \$500,000 married couples) on the sale of a principal residence.

• **Be a Stock Market Investor**—Eisenberg noted that most mutual funds don't beat market averages and recommended putting some money in an index fund mirrors a market index (e.g., S & P 500). Two other advan-

tages of index funds: low expenses and relatively low turnover, which can mean lower taxes. Also recommended were actively-managed funds in the following areas: small cap, international, and bonds. Key criteria for mutual fund selection are how expenses and good long-term performance.

• **Use Your Computer to Help Manage Your Finances**—Eisenberg mentioned popular software programs like "Quicken" and "Microsoft Money" that can simplify financial record-keeping. He also noted several paid web sites (e.g., zacks.com) where stocks can be screened against various criteria. On-line brokers are another popular trend for consumers who just need to have trades executed and don't require research or advice.

A financial fitness calendar for 1998

WESTFIELD—Interested in long-term financial security? Consider giving yourself the gift of financial fitness. Unfortunately this gift does not come neatly gift wrapped with a big, pretty bow. You must work hard to make this gift a reality. You may even have to make sacrifices such as fewer meals out, less money on clothing or entertainment, or driving your car another year.

How do you get started? Consider the following suggestions:

- January:** Get on the financial scales and create an overview of your financial situation. What do you own and what do you owe (your net worth)? How much income comes in and where does it go?

February: Keep an expense log for several months. Compare expenses with income. Income should exceed expenses or you are headed for financial trouble.

March: Reduce clutter in your financial life. Keep only important receipts, records, and papers. Instead of using "stash and pile" method of organization, use the "file it, find it" approach.

April: Trim your taxes. Track all deductions, contribute the maximum to accelerated retirement plans (e.g., 401(k)s) and evaluate potential tax cuts. Meet the April 15 deadline or file for an extension to avoid penalties.

May: Reduce expenses and debt. Cut the temptation to spend more than necessary and avoid the overspend of credit. Get in the habit of "small spending." Before making spending decisions, ask yourself, "Is what I am getting today worth the money I lose

for future goals?" And remember, using credit does not extend your income, it only adds to your debt.

June: To ensure steady, healthy growth of your net worth, use the savings strategy, "pay yourself first." Establish a regular savings plan and consider it one of a major bill to pay monthly.

July: Exercise the best insurance options. Review all your coverage. It is a good idea to compare your company's coverage with that of two other companies to be sure you are getting the best protection for your money.

August: Now that you have a good understanding of your financial base, you are ready to begin working on establishing long-term financial goals. Identify your long-term goals, attach a dollar value to them, and develop a plan to achieve them.

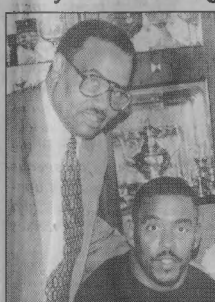
September: Choose a savings or investment plan to help you reach long-term goals. Explore options available through your employer and financial institutions.

October: Begin implementing a special time. Share money management skills with your children and encourage them to save and invest for their financial future.

November: Keep your financial health in good order, even if you become physically ill or incapacitated. Execute a living will, health care power of attorney, general durable power of attorney, and will.

December: Distribute good to family and friends and share your bounty with others Give wisely to charities. Be sure the charity is reputable and know what they do with the money collected.

Tony Dorsett's gets saucy



Placataway—Thomas Foods, Inc., a Placataway, New Jersey food manufacturer announced that Tony Dorsett, in photo at right, the former Dallas Cowboys running back and member of the NFL Hall of Fame, has agreed to lend his name and likeness to the company's all-purpose gourmet sauce.

With him is James W. Thomas, II, President and CEO of Thomas Foods, Tony Dorsett's 33 Sauce is positioned to fill the space on the market shelf between barbecue and steak sauces, both in consumer pricing and in serving as a lightweight substitute for the traditional sauces.

Survey finds allure of entrepreneurship on the decline

MENLO PARK, CA.—Most managers today are satisfied working for someone else, according to a recent survey. Only 18 percent of those polled said that the average executive would choose to be self-employed if he or she had the necessary start-up capital. In 1994, 48 percent of respondents said they felt the average executive would make the move.

The survey was developed by Robert Half International Inc., the world's first and largest staffing services firm specializing in the accounting, finance and information technology fields. It was conducted by an independent research firm and includes responses from 150 executives with the nation's 1,000 largest companies.

In growing economy with declining layoff activity, there is less incentive for executives to leave their current employers and assume the risks associated with starting their own businesses," said Max Messner, chairman and CEO of Robert Half International Inc.

Since the last recession, a number of executives who experienced with entrepreneurship may have found they prefer corporate life, Messner noted. Others have turned to consulting or project work as a way to maintain the freedom of entrepreneurship while eliminating administrative responsibilities and concerns associated with generating adequate business on a full-time basis.

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Study shows business loan bias

By Della Dingerfield
Special to the NNW
from the Chicago Defender

A history of inefficiently distributing loans to low-income neighborhoods among some banks in Chicago, it may have gotten worse. According to a recent study, small business loans were eight times harder to come by in poor communities—throughout Chicago in 1996, than in other areas.

"Low income neighborhoods aren't getting their share of small business loans," said Ed Wang, lead organizer for Chicago's Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN).

The report, released by ACORN, said one out of every eight loans in Chicago is directed towards businesses in upper income communities. And for every dollar that is given to business owners in low-income areas, \$11.64 is given to those in high-income communities.

"We have a group of lenders that are completely ignoring the needs of people in low-income neighborhoods," Wang said. Borrowed storefronts and vacant lots, frequently line the streets of Chicago's low-income communities. Residents often walk or drive miles, bypassing nearby buildings, in order to find a store to buy their weekly groceries.

According to the study, potential entrepreneurs in such areas, who seek to revitalize the neighborhoods have the odds stacked against them. Small business loans are hard to get for people who want to rebuild in low-income areas.

"They're not receiving the money they need to attract jobs and small businesses," Wang said. "That's why a lot of those communities continue to be left out economically."

He also said that banks continuously ignore the industries in rundown areas.

"It's a long history of discrimination within the banking industry," Wang said.

A couple of months ago, ACORN issued another study showing that potential home-buyers in low-income neighborhoods haven't received their fair share of home loans in past years.

"Banks are completely out of touch with what's happening in the low-income community," Wang said.

In order to rectify the problem, the study suggested that small business loan requirement be improved.

"You can't use the same type of standards that you would use in high-income communities," Wang said.

The standards made for low-income communities should help the bank aggressively market its products in poor areas. This is an important component in reducing the loan gap that exists.

"Banks have not really targeted low-income communities," Wang said. "The banks are just working with community organizations."

The study also refuted an earlier report by the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC) released in September. It focused on lending in low-income areas and found that there wasn't a big discrepancy between the nation's poorer and more affluent areas.

According to the ACORN study, that data underrepresented the plight that residents and entrepreneurs in poor communities face with the banking industry.

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Really listening: the only way to be heard

By Michael A. Grant, J.D.

"Advise and counsel him. If he does not listen, let adversity teach him."

We are a society of talkers. And even for many of those among us who are not so loquacious, really listening to others is a rare gift.

Generally, we are not listening with concentration to the words of another, but equally alarming, we are not even listening to the quiet wisdom that comes from our own inner-voice.

Much of the reason for our diminishing ability to focus on what others are saying to us is that we live in a noise-saturated world. Daily, we are bombarded with messages from every medium conceivable. Television, radio, billboards, bus advertisements, sales people, organizations with whom we are affiliated, etc. The list is endless.

Listening takes hearing to a higher, more meaningful level. People send messages that we value, we listen to. Those that we would transform, we listen to. Those that we have a vested interest in, we prick our ears for. The key is having the good judgment to know when to listen and when to block information from your sphere of concentration.

Some great mind once wrote: "Seek first to understand and then to be understood." We understand another's point of view when we choose to listen with an open mind and a caring heart. Among the many expected rewards when this approach is taken is this: The other party is now primed to listen to your side of the story.

Here are seven more good reasons to develop your listening skills:

- Good listeners enhance the quality of their own lives by giving themselves a reprieve from their concerns and worries.
- Good listening is therapy for both listener and speaker.
- Good listening promotes intimacy.
- Good listening encourages patience.

- Good listening furthers the aims of deeper understanding. For understanding is vertical and infinite. The more we listen, the more insights come to us.
- Good listening more powerful and exercise more control of themselves.

- Good listeners triumph in an "Age of Information." In the business world, they gain the competitive advantage because of the quality of information that they receive and later disseminate.

Everyone wants to be heard when it's their turn to speak—even the shy and the introverted. And many a profound statement has followed their prolonged silence. Only those willing to patiently wait and listen receive the beneficiaries of their wisdom.

So do you really want to be heard, to be understood by others? Then decide today that you do not have to inordinately add to life's noise pollution level. You can choose, instead, to become a member of that charmed minority that enjoys the secret knowledge that the best way to be heard, understood, valued and appreciated by others is to "Lend them your ears." If you will do so, they are more likely to praise your ideas not bury them.

God bless!

Dr. Michael A. Grant, author of "Beyond Blame," is a motivational/inspirational speaker.

YOUR MARVELOUS MIND

By Michael A. Grant, J.D.

All human beings act out of their emotions. One hundred percent of our behavior springs forth from some emotion. We are also social beings. So, oftentimes, we make choices based on an analysis of how our actions will affect others. Much of our emotional disequilibrium (feeling upset) is born of attempts to win the approval of others. We spend countless hours of our precious time reacting to the agendas of our significant others. The problem with being too "other-directed" is that it often leaves us feeling drained and unappreciated.

Unfortunately, selfishness has

reached epidemic proportions in our "me-centered" society. Therefore, those who are burdened with the belief that other people's comfort should be of paramount importance are often left holding the proverbial bag. I sincerely believe that it is more blessed to give than to receive. But what happens when an individual is personally held hostage by a band of thieving takers?

Much of our stretching to create comfort for others springs from the strongest of all emotions: Love. But where is the line of demarcation that separates the realm of charitable concern for others from the emotionally healthy, self-protecting, self-serving concern for one's own best interest?

Much of what upsets us is rooted in our feelings of being taken advantage of by others. A lot of our anger and resentment reflects a perceived, unbalanced equation. We feel out of kilter when we find ourselves giving and giving and giving. We become unsettled when others seem to always place their concerns and wants first (even when it is obvious that they do so at our expense).

So why do we make doormats of ourselves for others and complain about being walked on? How do we intelligently move in such a way that we communicate boundaries or limitations that others must honor? How do we control our own emotional need to depend on others so heavily

that any deviation from their expectations of us provokes the frustration of others that we might lose their love? How can we simultaneously secure for ourselves both the love and respect of our significant others?

The answer to all of the above questions is this: Become your own "Rock of Gibraltar." Emotionally stand on your own two feet. Set limits on what you will allow others to take from you. It is okay to set limits on others. It is okay to communicate your true feelings to others. It is absolutely okay to refuse to be used by others.

Say "yes" to the requests of others only when you are sure that "yes" reflects your genuine desire. To con-

tinued to slavishly honor the requests of others—without conscious awareness of why you are doing what you are doing—only perpetuates a vicious, dependency cycle. There is a healthier course. Become more aware of your private motives. Search deep within to discover whether you have taken responsibility for your own unmet needs. Decide today that others cannot construct your emotional bridge to a sense of well-being. But when you are operating from an emotionally-sound foundation, you are then prepared not only to administer to self but to give—without hostility and resentment—to others.

National Achievers Society launched by Urban League

NEW YORK—The National Urban League President Hugh Price, in partnership with the Congress of National Black Churches, launched a National Achievers Society recognizing young people who are achieving in their schools and communities. General Colin Powell will preside over the Achievers Society's first Induction Ceremony next spring. The Society is one component of the Campaign for African-American Achievement, a coalition of African-American organizations whose combined membership totals over 25 million mobilized to rally communities



On hand to announce the creation of the National Achievers Society were, from left, Dr. Israel T. Williams, Jr., Dr. Cheryl P. Clements, Bishop Ron L.W. Winbush, NUL president Hugh Price, Bishop John Hurst and Dr. Velma Cobb.

and develop policies that promote academic achievement among African-American youth.

Price also announced a nationwide Achievers Month beginning next September. An outgrowth of the Urban League's September 20 "Doing

the Right Thing" event, honoring young people, the Achievers Month will dedicate September to a variety of programs designed to celebrate and foster achievement. More than 38,000 young people across the country participated in the event.

A new home for our seniors

PLAINFIELD—A groundbreaking ceremony for the Covenant House Senior Housing was held recently in Plainfield. The facility is sponsored by the United Methodist Homes of New Jersey and Covenant United Methodist Church.

In 1992, Pastor Charles Miller had a vision while on his daily walk around the property at their First United Methodist Church of Plainfield. His vision was of a senior housing complex constructed on a large plot of vacant land next to the church and parsonage. Pastor Miller brought his vision to the trustees of



Pictured: top, Bottom right, scenes from the groundbreaking.



the church who enthusiastically endorsed this idea. In November, 1992, he met with representatives of the United Methodist Homes of New Jersey (The Homes), who also supported this vision. It was agreed that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) be asked to partner with the church and The Homes for a senior housing project.

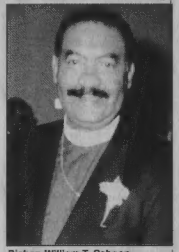
Church representatives visited Bishop Taylor Manor in January of 1993. This is a HUD financed senior housing facility in East Orange managed by The Homes and sponsored by neighborhood churches, Christ Episcopal and Calvary-Roseville United Methodist.

First United Methodist Church in

Bishop Cahoon is among the 'Men of Valor'

NEWARK—Georgia native Bishop William Cahoon has been an inspiring figure in church ministry since 1962. For his outstanding work in the church and his contributions in the community, he was a recipient of the "Men of Valor" award at a recent awards breakfast sponsored by Project Re-Direct Youth and Family Services.

Cahoon, along with his wife Carolyn, founded the St. Andrews COGIC in Jersey City. He pastored there for 12 years, assisting in the church's growth and development. Bishop Cahoon is now the pastor of the House of Prayer, Church of God in Christ in Plainfield, where he has ministered to and counseled congregation members since December of 1986. Bishop Cahoon is also the Executive Secretary of the National Board of Trustees of the Church of God in Christ. In 1993, he began giving of his time and effort to work with the new Garden State Ecclesiastical



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How to make 1998 a really a new year

By Junious Ricardo Stanton

All of us have much to be thankful for as we enter this new year. The love of family and friends, our health and well being and the opportunity to make each day better than the day before. No matter how young or old we are, we should strive to make this the best year of our lives. In 1998 we should take inventory of ourselves, our gifts, talents and resources. We should seek to know our life's purpose and get on task to share our good and talents with the world.

All of us are hoping 1998 will be the best year of our lives. People are searching for love, happiness and riches as part of our dream. Unfortunately most are seeking it in all the wrong places. Many of us think happiness will come from improved circumstances or that wealth is the result of increased material possessions. Many are looking forward to getting a new job or starting a new relationship, thinking this

will make them happy. Many of us anticipate the new year as an opportunity to continue spending, buying and consuming thinking this will lift our hearts or give us status in the eyes of others. Sadly for many folks, 1998 will be nothing more than a continuation of 1997. Their thinking will remain unchanged and since energy follows thought, their lives will remain the same. The new year should signal a new you!

To make it new we must be new. Otherwise it's the same old routine only a different day. What are you prepared to do differently to improve your life? What price are you willing to pay to be better? There are no free rides in life. You get what you pay for and we don't get something for nothing. Be willing to pay the price your mind, attitude. Bring in the new year with a new attitude, a can-do attitude, a will-to-do attitude. Activate and empower your imagination to create a new vision of yourself. See yourself as a child of God, the loving

heir of a lavish parent. Think that way, act that way and conduct all your affairs in congruence with this belief.

How does an heir to limitless power and riches behave? They are bold, confident yet grateful. They are assured, they are success magnets attracting to themselves the support and resources to accomplish their goals. They navigate the inevitable setbacks, obstacles and challenges of life gracefully. Check yourself out. Do you see yourself as a prince (princess) or a pauper? Are you a mover and shaker or a dangle puppet? What do your attitudes, belief system and body language reveal about you? Are you prepared to make a big splash in 1998? If not, what will you have to do to alter this picture?

I want all of us to experience a happy and prosperous new year. It will not happen automatically or by faith. If this is what you want for yourself, you will have to make it happen.

Health Calendar

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

WESTFIELD—A smoking cessation program will be held 7 p.m. at the Hudson County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Office. For more info, call 908-233-8910.

BELLE BEAD—Advances in HIV/AIDS—The Management of HIV/AIDS will be presented from noon to 1 p.m. in the Addison Amphitheater at Center Foundation. For more info, call 908-261-1461.

NEW YORK—Beth Israel Health Care System is seeking volunteers to provide integration services for patients at the Philip Ambulatory Care Center. Volunteers who speak Spanish, Russian, or Chinese are needed. For more info, call 212-444-8630.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

WESTFIELD—A smoking cessation program will be held 7 p.m. at the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Office. For more info, call 908-233-8910.

UNION—Union Hospital's SeniorHealth offers a one-on-one and the indoor comfort of the Metro Park Mall at 6:30 a.m. For more info, call 908-263-6300.

TEANECK—Menopause management education program at Holy Name Hospital and on Feb. 19th. For more info, call 1-888-9MID-LIFE.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

NEWARK—A blood drive will be held from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the VFW District #4. To sign up to donate, call 1-800-852-0020.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23

NEW BRUNSWICK—A free seminar will be held on Laser and Cosmetic Surgery at The Skin Laser Center at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital from 6 to 7:30 p.m. For more info, call 732-418-4145.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

PLAINFIELD—Union County College is offering an approved curriculum for Home Health Aide training from 8:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. on Tuesdays through Fridays through February 27th. For more info, call 908-708-7600.

AIDS: A silent killer in our neighborhood

By Marina Wright Edelman

If someone came into your neighborhood, threatening to kill your children, wouldn't you move heaven and earth to protect them? Wouldn't you do whatever it took to keep them safe? Unfortunately, the killer is in your neighborhood. Its name is AIDS.

This is not somebody else's problem—it is all living with it. African-Americans bear a disproportionate burden of this deadly epidemic, and the tragic reality is our children are no exception. Half of all people newly infected by HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, are under 25; one in four are teenagers. And of those young people, six in 10 are Black and Latino. Of the teenage girls infected, a shocking eight in 10 are Black and Latino.

In some communities of color, one in every 30 young men, ages 18 and 19, is already HIV infected. And AIDS does not discriminate by gender: more than half of infected Black teenagers are female.

Fortunately, there are some

promising developments. The rate of HIV transmission from mother to infants declined 43 percent last year. And the arrival of promising new drugs has brought new hope to those people currently living with the virus.

A cure is still far off the horizon, and we can't allow the hope of tomorrow to stop us from protecting our children today. Nor can we allow fear or homophobia to color our perception of the disease that is stealing so many of our children's dreams. AIDS is an equal opportunity threat, and AIDS prevention is a mission that demands our full attention and action now.

Time and time again, our children, our extended families, and informal kinship have been in need to protect community's needs. Now it is time for those same institutions to take up the AIDS prevention banner. And it is time for Black parents to fight that same fight on behalf of our children.

Remind your child that AIDS isn't someone else's problem. No one thinks it's going to get AIDS. The

choices our young people make now will profoundly affect their chances of becoming healthy, responsible and productive adults. That's why it's so important for them to have the guidance and support of caring adults in their families, their schools, their churches, and their communities.

Young people who feel good about themselves will make good choices. Young people who believe in their future will do everything they can to make sure they have a future. So it may just be that, in the end, the most important protection you can give your children is a strong sense of their own God-given value and potential.

Marina Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund, which coordinates the Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC), whose mission is to leave no child behind and to ensure every child a healthy, head, fair, safe, and moral start in life. For more information about the BCCC, call 202-628-7373.

Newark to open second lead-safe house

NEWARK—The City of Newark opened its second lead-safe house during the holiday season. These facilities are the only ones of their kind in New Jersey. The first facility is located at 132-134 Huntington Terrace between Sheppard Avenue and Kenner.

Children with elevated blood lead levels and their families, who are eligible under this program, will be temporarily relocated to the lead-safe houses. Families will return to their former residences when the lead has been abated at their homes. "This is a positive, progressive measure being taken by the James administration to provide a lead-safe environment for our children today and tomorrow. According to Catherine

Cuomo-Cecere, acting director of the Newark Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

"A child's health is the greatest gift," she says. "It is only appropriate that opening of this second lead-safe house take place during the holiday season," James said. "This is a major step in protecting our youngest from the dangers of lead," he added.

The house has a total of five units—four bedrooms and one three-bedroom unit. The City's first lead-safe house on 278 Lehigh Avenue with a two-bedroom suite and a three-bedroom unit opened late last year.

"Experts in the field of lead poisoning prevention have reiterated the severity and persistency of the prob-

lem of long-term lead exposure." The DHHS Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Program has existed for 90 years. During that time, thousands of children were identified as lead burdened, or seriously affected, by lead. Cecere noted.

"During the families' stay at the safe houses, they will be given classes on nutrition and lead exposure prevention. Support groups also will be available to parents living in the safe houses and to other parents with lead infected children."

For further information, please contact the Newark Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Environmental Health Unit at 973-733-5188.

March of Dimes honors six

NEWARK—The March of Dimes held its sixth annual Community Service Awards Banquet recently at the Newark Club in the Seton Hall Law Building in Newark. March of Dimes Community Service Awards brings together business, the arts, medicine and concerned citizens to celebrate the achievements and civic contributions of some of New Jersey's outstanding community and corporate leaders, while helping to raise funds for the March of Dimes for Healthier Babies. This year's honorees are pictured here from left to right: Dr. Roger Cooper, Director of Pediatrics at Columbus Hospital; Dr. Peter A. Beaupre, Director of the Department of OB/GYN at St. Michael's Medical Center; Dr. Charles H. Bonbrant, Jr., Chairman of the Department of OB/GYN at the Hospital Center at Orange; Anzella K. Nels, Assistant Superintendent of Newark Public Schools Assemblyman Albert Coulombe, of Newark's 28th Legislative District; and Jeffrey Norman, Development Director of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

Kidcare give coverage to uninsured children

TRENTON—Gov. Christie Whitman today ensured the health and welfare of New Jersey's children when she signed legislation to establish New Jersey KidCare, a program that will provide health insurance coverage to more than 100,000 children from low-income working families throughout New Jersey.

"New Jersey's kids deserve our best: a solid education, a safe neighborhood, a clean environment and quality medical care, no matter what the cost," said Gov. Whitman. "And the New Jersey KidCare program will make sure that children across the state can get the medicine, see the doctors and receive the attention they need to grow up healthy and strong."

Beginning in early 1998, New Jersey KidCare will provide subsidized private health insurance coverage and other health care benefits for qualifying children from birth through 18 years of age. The program is expected to provide coverage for approximately 102,000 children who are currently ineligible for the existing Medicaid program. The program expands Medicaid to provide coverage for children of families earning up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level and provides managed care coverage for children of families earning

between 133 and 200 percent of the poverty level.

The 1997 federal poverty level is \$16,050 for a family of four; this translates into a cap on per capita up to \$32,100 and be eligible for the program. The program will require co-payments and a premium contribution from families with incomes that exceed 150 percent of the poverty level (i.e. incomes up to \$19,950 for a family of three and \$24,075 for a family of four). The state will contribute \$47.6 million annually for New Jersey KidCare. These funds will be matched by \$8.4 million in federal funds. State funding for the program was authorized in the charity care legislation signed by Gov. Whitman last week. The program will be funded, in part, by proceeds from the newly increased tax on cigarettes and tobacco products.

The Governor encouraged families in need to call a toll-free number for program and eligibility information. Interested individuals can call 1-800-701-0710. The state will launch an aggressive outreach program to provide information about the program to families posing information at schools, healthcare facilities and social services centers.

Top blood donor honored



David Stephens of Newark was recently honored by The Blood Center of New Jersey as one of its top 50 donors during a 50th anniversary celebration. Stephens, at right, is pictured here accepting an award from Frank Grardone, M.D., chairman of the BCNJ's Board of Trustees. Over 250 guests attended the gala, held at Mayfair Farms, featuring a champagne reception for the top 50 honorees and their guests.

Celebrate Birth Defects Prevention Month this January

PINE BROOK—As people throughout New Jersey celebrate 1998, the March of Dimes urges prospective parents to resolve to "Think Ahead" to plan for a healthy pregnancy. The March of Dimes kicks off its 60th Anniversary celebration this month with Birth Defects Prevention Month, to inform women and men of the simple steps they can take to give their babies a healthy start in life.

"The New Year represents new beginnings. It can also symbolize a starting point for good health and well-being, especially for women who are thinking of having a baby in 1998 and beyond," says Dr. Emily Tompkins, chairman of the March of Dimes Program Services Committee (PSC). "Each year over 150,000 babies in the United States are born with a birth defect, more than 4,000 of them in New Jersey alone. January, the start of a new year, is a special time for the March of Dimes to remind women and men of the simple things they can do to prepare for a healthy baby," added Tompkins.

Women and their partners should "Think Ahead" to reduce the risk of a baby being born too small, too soon or with a birth defect. The March of Dimes suggests these Resolutions for a Healthy

the chance of having a baby born with serious defects of the brain and spinal cord by up to 70 percent.

"See a health care provider for a medical checkup before becoming pregnant and know your family medical history," says Dr. Franklyn Desposio, Department of Pediatrics, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School and chairman of the March of Dimes, North Jersey Chapter. "Making sure that all women of childbearing age know about the benefits of folic acid is of major concern to the March of Dimes, because folic acid is needed every day, before a woman knows she's pregnant," he added.

For more information about Birth Defects Prevention Month, to request a FREE "Think Ahead" pre-pregnancy planning packet or information on folic acid, call the March of Dimes, North Jersey Chapter at 973-882-0700.

Dilated eye exams can help detect glaucoma

JACKSON—January is Glaucoma Awareness Month, and The Low Vision Care Center, along with the National Eye Institute (NEI) and 25 other organizations, are highlighting the importance of eye care and vision. Due to few early warning signs of possible vision loss, Dr. Errol Rummel of The Low Vision Care Center, Jackson, New Jersey, is urging those at risk for glaucoma to get regular dilated eye examinations to help detect this blinding eye disease.

"One of the challenges we face with glaucoma is that people are not aware that the disease is slowly stealing their vision," Dr. Rummel said. "By the time they realize they are losing vision, it is too late to restore the vision they have already lost. However, if the treatment is caught early, vision can be controlled and remaining vision can be protected."

Glaucoma is a leading cause of irreversible vision loss in the United States and affects about three million Americans. It is estimated that up to one-half of this number may be unaware they have the disease. Dr. Rummel identified high risk groups as "Everyone over the age of 60, African-Americans over the age of 40, and people who have a family history of glaucoma. These people need to receive a regularly scheduled dilated eye exam, plus eye pressure testing and visual field screenings."

"Glaucoma occurs when the normal fluid pressure inside the eye progressively increases, leading to optic nerve damage and reduced peripheral (side) vision. As the disease worsens, the field of vision gradually narrows and blindness may result. However, it is important to note that elevated fluid pressure inside the eye may not put people at risk for glaucoma, but it does not necessarily mean they have the disease. Whether or not a person develops glaucoma depends on the level of pressure the optic nerve can tolerate. Screening techniques have improved and can play a vital role in educating people about the risks of glaucoma, the best way to detect glaucoma is to have an eye exam in which drops are placed in the eye to dilate the pupils. This allows the eye care professional to obtain a better view of the eye's optic nerve to look for early signs of glaucoma. "Health care providers should make a more active role in encouraging their patients to get a regular eye exam," Dr. Rummel said.

Carl Kupper, M.D., director of the National Eye Institute, one of the

Federal government's National Institutes of Health, said that people at risk for glaucoma often believe that if their vision is fine, there is no need to be concerned. It is only when they notice vision loss that they take action.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

NEWARK—Internationally acclaimed composer, conductor and pianist, Steve Colton will debut his composition, "as in a Cultural Renaissance" at New Jersey's 10th annual "Sing in Praise of King" celebration, dedicated to the dynamic legacy of the great human rights advocate, the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. At 7 p.m. in the Princeton Hall Theatre of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, the concert is free and open to the general public. For more info, call 973-733-3597.

NEWARK—"Sing in Praise of King" 10th annual tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will be held at the NJ Chamber Music Society at 7 p.m. For more info, call 201-733-6454.

NEW YORK—A jazz trio featuring Michael Moore on Bass will perform at Zinn's through the 24th at 8 p.m. For more info, call 212-924-5182.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

NEW YORK—Jazz at Lincoln Center features Cuba's rich musical heritage including pianist Chucho Valdes. For more info, call 212-875-5599.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

NEWARK—The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of Johannes Brahms with a three-week Brahms Festival running through Jan. 31st. Performances will take place at New Jersey Performing Arts Center at 8 p.m. For more info, call 973-624-3713, ext. 234.

NEW YORK—Jazz at Lincoln Center features Cuba's rich musical heritage including pianist Chucho Valdes. For more info, call 212-875-5599.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

NEW BRUNSWICK—The State Theatre presents "The Mahabharata" at 8 p.m. For more info, call 732-246-7469.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

NEW YORK—Noted Cuban-American producer, historian and lecturer, Rene Lopez will moderate the panel discussion "Cuban Music Today: A Jazz Talk program featuring various artists at 7 p.m. in the Stanley H. Kaplan Theatre of the Samuel B. & David B. Rose Building. For more info, call 212-875-5599.

PRINCETON—Shakespeare's Delightful Romance, "Cymbeline" will be performed through Feb. 8th at the McCarter Theatre Center for the Performing Arts. For more info, call 609-252-0915.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

NEW YORK—Metro Blue singer, Holly Cole, will perform tracks from her praised current release, "Dark Deer Heart" 8 p.m. at the Westbeth Theatre. For more info, call 212-741-0391.

NEW YORK—Jazz at Lincoln Center features Cuba's rich musical heritage at 8 p.m. in Alice Tully Hall. For more info, call 212-875-5599.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

NEW BRUNSWICK—George Street Playhouse presents "To Kill a Mockingbird" through Feb. 28th. For more info, call 732-246-7717.

NEW YORK—Jazz at Lincoln Center features Cuba's rich musical heritage at 8 p.m. in Alice Tully Hall. For more info, call 212-875-5599.

NEW BRUNSWICK—Crossroads Theatre Company invites you to the opening night celebration of "Spirit North" by Leslie Lee at 8 p.m. For more info, call 732-249-5581, ext. 19.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

NEW BRUNSWICK—The State Theatre presents Ballet du Capitole de Toulouse at 8 p.m. For more info, call 732-246-7469.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

SONMERSVILLE—The Coasters, The Drifters and The Platters will perform 8 p.m. at The Theater at Raritan Valley Community College. For more info, call 908-725-3420.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

NEWARK—Sounds of Portugal will be performed at The Newark Museum at 1:30 p.m. For more info, call 1-800-ALLEGRO.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

PRINCETON—Cassandra Wilson, jazz vocalist will perform at the McCarter Theatre Center for the Performing Arts at 8 p.m. For more info, call 609-893-9100, ext. 616.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

NEWARK—Spirituals, gospel blues, and jazz will be performed at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. For more info, call 973-642-0044.

Amistad awash in stereotypes



By Jim Lobe

"Amistad," U.S. director Steven Spielberg's latest movie, is a powerful and compelling account of a 19th-century slave mutiny. Unfortunately, it falls far short of hopes that it would provide an African-American parallel to "Schindler's List." Spielberg's award-winning blockbuster about the Jewish Holocaust of World War II.

While some of the drama, especially the flashbacks to the "Middle Passage," the trans-Atlantic voyage of slaves from Africa to Cuba, is as intense and horrific as the concentration camp scenes of "Schindler's List," the movie focuses primarily on the legal and political developments affecting the mutineers' fate.

In fact, the actual perspective of slavery and the slave trade presented by this \$35 million production does not differ much from what most U.S. children learned in primary school.

And the subplot of the movie—berian cruelty, African defiance to "big men," and the superiority of Anglo-American government and justice—amounts to stereotypes long familiar to North Americans.

The Spanish ship "Amistad" was sailed through some of the 53 slaves it was transporting to the eastern part of the island. Led by Joseph Cinque (portrayed in the movie by Djimon Hounsou), these

new arrivals from West Africa spared the crew members to navigate the ship back home. But the Spaniards piloted the boat northward until its capture. The slaves—both men and women—were put in prison in New Haven, CT to stand trial for piracy, and murder, but the case was mostly about justice. The U.S. government under President Martin Van Buren claimed that a treaty with Spain required that the cargo be returned to Cuba, while the two Spanish crew members claimed the slaves as their own property.

Backed by the abolitionist movement, the defense argued that, because the defendants were not born slaves, they had been illegally acquired. Along with Britain, the United States outlawed the slave trade in 1807, so people taken from Africa after that date could not be slaves under U.S. law.

Tried twice in New Haven, the case went all the way to the Supreme Court which ruled in favor of the defense, then led by former president John Quincy Adams (played by Anthony Hopkins), and ordered the mutineers set free and returned to Africa if they so wished.

These events are covered in the film reasonably realistically, although the presence of a Black abolitionist leader (Morgan Freeman) on the defense team is fictional, as is the depiction of a supposed visit by Cinque to Adams' home. And the main defense attorney, Roger Baldwin

(Matthew McConaughey), was actually a New England aristocrat, rather than the scruffy, uncertain lawyer shown in the movie.

Those quibbles apart, the movie is a powerful drama, dominated by the superb performance of Hounsou, a novice actor originally from Benin, and Hopkins, as well as stunning cinematography by Janusz Kaminski, who also worked under Spielberg in "Schindler's List." But given the high expectations surrounding the movie and its pre-release comparisons to "Schindler's List," "Amistad" ultimately disappoints.

Perhaps the most disturbing element of the movie, however, is the depiction of the Africans themselves. Other than Cinque (whose Mende name was Sengbe Pieh), none of the Africans is presented as a distinct person, least of all the women who are given no real role whatsoever. From virtually the first scene, all of the mutineers follow Cinque without question or consultation.

As noted by one newspaper columnist, when Cinque and his fellow-captives speak, Mende to one another in White people's presence, their remarks are subtitled; but when they are by themselves, their words usually untranslated. "What Blacks are among their own, the film seems to say, what's in their hearts and minds is just not worth knowing," it wrote.

brand of performance. Usher's opening act was a refreshing stand-out. He was a playful and charismatic performer who kept the crowd on their feet with his combination of electrifying, cutting edge and sexy dance routines and powerful vocals.

While he offered no critique of his four mates, he said he can only assume responsibility for his own choices. "I can't tell someone else how or what they should perform. I'm still trying to make my performance better. That's the only thing I can control so that's where my focus has to be," he said with obvious diplomacy.

"I think when I'm on stage I'm at my best. I absolutely love being on stage. I love to dance, I love to perform. That is my first love." And while some have scoffed and said that Usher's preoccupation with the dancer component of his act is at the expense of his live vocals, he readily admitted that he still

has to grow in some areas of his performance. "I'm my biggest critic and I know there are things I still need to work on. But this is just the beginning and I know I will get even bet-

"Spirit North" premieres at Crossroads Theatre

NEW BRUNSWICK—Crossroads Theatre in New Brunswick presents the World Premiere engagement of Leslie Lee's play "Spirit North" January 17 - February 15, 1998. The play, a compelling theatrical event about a murder trial that comes between a middle class black couple, is the work of playwright Leslie Lee whose 20-year relationship with Crossroads Theatre began with its very first production.

"Spirit North" tells the story of a married couple, Paul and Leila. Paul, a lawyer, defends Malik Robinson, a young Black teenager accused of murdering a White teenager. The Black community rallies behind Robinson, though Leila thinks he might be guilty. Now Paul and Leila are on opposite sides and both may be right. Paul's grandfather Ben, a retired vaudevillian, has the most distance and clarity on the situation, through his partial senility effects his ability to be heard. What follows is a compelling personal trial of how race and the criminal justice system hit home.

"My heroes are some of those old folks," states playwright Lee. "The Grandfather has wisdom despite the fact that he's losing it. He says he's going to take his spirit North, meaning to a place of enlightenment."

It is in the developing twists and turns of this incendiary murder trial, and the wit and ability of these characters to deal with what life has thrown at them that gives "Spirit North" its contradictions and emotional power.

The play is directed by Harold Scott with original music by "Odetta" Gordon and stars Victor Love, Ray Aranha, Joy DeMichelle, Moore and M. o n e. Walton.

Preview performances January 17 - 23 are Tuesday through Saturday at 8pm and Sunday at 3pm. Regular performances are January 25 - February 15 are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 pm. Tickets are \$22.50 - \$32.50 and can be purchased by calling the Box Office at 732-249-5560. Groups of 20 or more should contact Ros Neal, Director of Group Sales at 732-249-5581 ext. 17.

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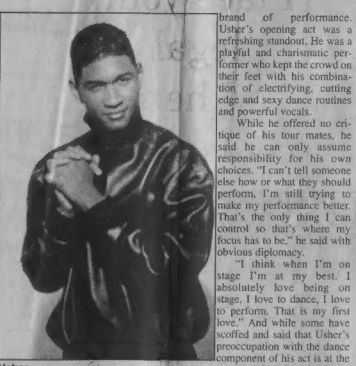
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Doing It His Way

By Avonie Brown

His music is infectious and his man-child charm has endeared him to millions of women nationwide. Undoubtedly, you have heard his "I'm flattered and it's all very exciting, but we worked very hard on this new album and I put a lot of myself in it. Now that people are listening and enjoying the music it's a very good feeling."



Usher

mega-hit "You Make Me Wanna," the first single-off his sophomore release My Way (LaFace/Arista Records). According to Broadcast Data Systems' radio detection service this number one platinum single now holds the record for the highest R&B radio air-play, having reached over 50.7 million R&B listeners. The song has spent an amazing 11 weeks at number one on the Billboard R&B singles chart, tying the record set by Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You."

It has also gained the 19-year-old teen sensation a Grammy nomination for Male R&B Vocal Performance. "I'm flattered and it's all very exciting, but we worked very hard on this new album and I put a lot of myself in it. Now that people are listening and enjoying the music it's a very good feeling," he said.

The album is appropriately titled My Way because not only did Usher co-write six of the nine songs, he explained that each track was written or chosen because it explicitly resonated with aspects of his life.

The songs range from funky dance tracks to dreamy ballads. While they all explore Usher's emerging sexuality, they never degenerate to crass and gratuitous exploitations. In fact, that is the marked difference between Usher and much of the crew of the Puff Daddy and the Family/No Way Out Tour currently criss-crossing the country. With Puff Daddy at the helm, Jay Z, Busta

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There's A College For You...



Education key in aspirations of black students

FAIRFAX, VA—According to a report released by the United Negro College Fund (The College Fund/UNCF), the aspirations of African American students are rising dramatically. Volume III of The Status of Education in Black America released by UNCF's research arm, the Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute, indicates that the challenge now is to make sure that course-taking and achievement keep pace.

The volume focuses on the transition from high school to college and from school to work. It marks the completion of the largest, most comprehensive collection of information ever assembled on the educational status of African Americans.

During the 1980s, the proportion of African American high school sophomores expecting eventually to graduate from college doubled from 35 to 70 percent. But the proportion enrolled in an academic program rose only to 59 percent. Two years after their expected time of high school graduation, only one-fourth were actually enrolled in college and working towards a bachelor's degree.

According to William H. Gray, III, president and chief executive officer of The College Fund, Volume III of The Status of Education in Black America "provides information about the challenges facing African Americans in their transition from high school to college and from college to the workplace. It forms a powerful way of thinking about

both the educational progress and the challenges which must be confronted by those concerned about the academic performance of African American students. It is our hope that the compilation of this data which previously existed in isolation will allow for a new research agenda around these issues and pave the way for improving educational opportunities and outcomes in the future."

"High aspirations are desirable, of course," said Dr. Michael T. Nettles, executive director of the Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute, which compiled the report. "But aspirations alone are not enough. There has to be academic effort and achievement."

Among other significant findings in the new report:

Both the amount and quality of education really do matter. There appears to be a strong relationship between academic achievement and the college degrees students eventually earn.

In the nation's largest longitudinal student data base, going back to 1980, African Americans at each achievement level were about as likely as whites to earn bachelor's degrees. But the proportion of African Americans scoring in the higher quartiles was relatively low, and so was the proportion overall that earned a college degree.

In a similar national database, which started in 1988, the achievement of black students in reading and math had risen substantially. As we move through the 1990s, the degrees earned by these better-prepared students should increase, though there are still substantial deficits that must be overcome.

"High aspirations are desirable, of course but aspirations alone are not enough."

Dr. Michael T. Nettles

• Black women have made greater gains in high school education than Black men and more of them continue their education beyond high school.

By two years after their expected graduation, 87 percent of African American women, compared to 79 percent of African American men, have received high school diplomas. Among Whites, the comparable figures are 91 percent for women and 89 percent for men.

Overall, more African American women than African American men enroll in post-secondary education—66 percent versus 53 percent by 1992.

*The U.S. military is one area where blacks-particularly men-have attained equality with whites with similar levels of education. However as the size of the armed forces has shrunk over the past 15 years, the number of young Black men in the military has declined from 289,000 to

See EDUCATION KEY/page A5

NJ Task Force evaluates capacity of higher ed system

In January 1997, the Chairman of the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education (the Commission) announced the formation of a Blue Ribbon Task Force to evaluate the capacity of the state's higher education system and to make recommendations to the Commission on the establishment, expansion, closure, or consolidation of institutions. A Request for Proposal was issued by the State of New Jersey in early March 1997, for the purpose of securing a qualified consultant to:

1. Assist the Task Force in collecting and analyzing relevant data regarding the demand for and provision of higher education in New Jersey; and based on these analyses;

2. Propose recommendations and alternatives to the Task Force regarding the effective and efficient provision of higher education in the state.

MGT of America, Inc., was selected by the proposal review team to assist the Task Force in this evaluation effort.

The initial work of the task force focused on collecting public input on these important issues via three public hearings around the state. These hearings were held in the Camden area, Trenton, and Newark in early June. In addition to the public testimony given at these hearings,

written testimony was also submitted for consideration by the Task Force.

The work of the Task Force and MGT from July through October focused on the collection and analysis of relevant data and other information regarding the capacity of New Jersey's system of higher education. This report also includes the Task Force's recommendations based on these analyses. This overview provides a summary of our major findings and recommendations.

The current level of participation in higher education anywhere by New Jersey High School Graduates is high as is the overall level of educational attainment of New Jersey residents.

According to the report there are a number of positive aspects relative to the participation of New Jersey residents in higher education and of the overall degree of educational attainment of New Jersey residents:

The overall level of participation in higher education anywhere (in state and out of state) by New Jersey high school graduates is well above the national average. More than three-fifths (64.4%) of high school graduates in the state enroll in a college or university somewhere within 12 months of graduation compared with 57 percent of high school graduates nationally.

The overall level of educational attainment of New Jersey residents is also much higher than the national average. Almost three out of every ten residents age 25 or older (28.3%) have at least a bachelor's degree compared with 23.6 percent nationally.

In short, New Jersey high school graduates participate in higher education at a relatively high level compared to their peers nationally. Likewise, state residents are well educated compared with those of other states.

The report suggests, that from a macro-level perspective, these are very positive signs for New Jersey. This indicates that the state has a high level of well-educated individuals to meet the current needs of employers within the state.

The high level of participation in higher education by New Jersey high school graduates suggests that this pattern of "intellectual capital" development will continue in the future which could also have a positive impact on the state's future level of educational attainment and continued economic growth and development.

Information provided courtesy of the Draft Report and Recommendations on the Capacity of New Jersey's Higher Education System.

There's A College For You

UCC mentoring program motivates low-income students

CRANFORD, NJ—With a bit of special attention from dedicated faculty, 18 selected Union County College students are mounting hurdles in their studies to achieve success in some very challenging subject areas. One student, a single, diabetic mother of a severely disabled child, holds a nearly perfect grade-point average with a major in Chemistry. Another hails from Nigeria and describes herself as a "slow learner" who nevertheless earns good grades with a major in Biology. And there are many more like them.

Out of 59 applicants, the College is one of only 10 to be awarded a \$204,056 incentive grant from the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education to implement a faculty mentoring program to improve graduation and transfer rates for minority and/or low-income students. The grant provides seed money over three years for the new program, which has been named the UCC Graduation/ Transfer Support Program. It is designed to create faculty-student partnerships under the mentoring assistance of three faculty

members.

In addition to financial need and strong academic performance, students are also selected for the mentoring program based on their show of motivation to succeed at UCC and subsequently at the four-year college or university level.

Participating faculty mentors meet individually with students every two weeks and are planning workshops, career awareness, and group support activities. They also provide computer-aided instructional and tutorial services to increase participants' social and academic integration into the College system.

The three faculty mentors chosen for the project are Dr. Mushtaq Khan of Edison, a Chemistry professor; Prof. Elliot Fisher of Jersey City, who teaches Mathematics, and Prof. John Flynn of Rahway, a member of the Engineering Technologies faculty. Each was selected based on his previous participation in an Alliance for Minority Participation in the Sciences grant consortium.

"We supply the students with one-on-one time," says Dr. Khan. "We supplement what is offered in classes, such as Organic Chemistry or Calculus, tailoring our mentoring closely to classroom lectures and labs."

For example, he might adapt his mentoring session on electrons by summarizing a lecture and illustrating major points using Chem Draw computer software to show motions and reactions.

Dr. Khan, like his fellow faculty men-

tors, works with a diverse student mix. He says he tries to keep the students focused, while ensuring that he maintains a friendly, two-way communication system with them.

"I want the students to feel comfortable," says Dr. Khan. "I'll let them call me at home if they have a question. The bottom line is that they learn and understand. These things are too complicated to memorize. I try to inspire the students to do well."

He tells the story of a nursing student who was struggling in class and was close to dropping out of her program. Just as she had sought tutoring assistance through a laboratory technician, she was accepted into the mentoring program. Thus, she was able to retain her 3.70 grade-point average.

Valerie Blue of Elizabeth is one of the students being mentored. Accepted to a major university on a full scholarship when she graduated from high school, the 20-year-old's goals were placed on hold when she became pregnant and gave birth to a severely disabled son. Herself a diabetic, Ms. Blue attends UCC despite a hectic schedule balancing her family and study responsibilities. The extra help from the mentors is integral to her success in

maintaining a 3.95 grade-point average.

"The mentors are willing to help us out," she says with a beaming smile. "I hope to go to New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) when I graduate, and this will help me to do that."

What is especially appealing to her about the program? "The mentors' concern for the students' personal lives," she says assuredly.

Uki Asuen, also of Elizabeth, has wanted to become a surgeon ever since her childhood in Nigeria. She says she loves the idea of helping others, especially those who have no money to obtain proper medical care. The 21-year-old plans to enroll at Rutgers mentor-and, the University upon graduation from the community college. The young woman maintains two jobs, tailoring her class schedule accordingly. Her brother, a business major, also is in the mentoring program.

"I overcame the language obstacle, but was so shy that my grades went down," she says. "With the sciences, I'm doing very well."

Ms. Asuen notes the mentors have helped her to "absorb what I need to take in." Together, they re-read notes and text, which she later reviews at home by herself.

She capsulizes the program's success in a few words: "It's so cool! Besides learning so much, everybody knows everybody in the (mentoring) program. We're all friends. We're very happy to have this."

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Commission on Higher Ed approves mission change at Richard Stockton College

TRENTON, NJ—The State of New Jersey's Commission on Higher Education recently approved a "change in mission" for The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, enabling the Pomona, NJ-based institution to offer two new master's degree programs as early as next year, one in 1999 and one additional program every two years up to the year 2004. The Commission's unanimous approval marked the first change in mission by a New Jersey college under the Higher Education Restructuring Act of 1994, which charged CHE with "making final administrative decisions over a change in the programmatic mission of an institution."

'The Business Studies program enabled students to complete the 150 credit hours required by the State Board of Accountancy.'

Vera King Farris

"Naturally, we are delighted," Stockton President Vera King Farris said. "The change in mission enables us to develop and enhance new teaching and learning strategies and cur-

riculum at the graduate level to better meet the needs of the state, region and our local community."

Founded in 1969 as an undergraduate liberal arts college, Stockton in 1994 introduced its first master's program, a Master of Physical Therapy degree program. In June of 1997, CHE granted Stockton the authority to exceed its programmatic mission and offer two additional master's programs: Master of Business Studies and Master of Arts in Instructional Technology, which began in the fall semester of 1997.

Last summer, the College petitioned the Commission for a change in programmatic mission (to change the level of academic degrees or certificates authorized for the institution.) CHE sent an external consultant to the College on August 5 for an on-site visit, who recommended the mission change. On November 10, the Executive Board of the New Jersey Presidents' Council voted unanimously to recommend the mission change.

According to Farris, Stockton envisions that graduate education will be an important priority in the twenty-first century. "Our first three programs emerged out of state and regional needs for graduate education," she said. "We developed the Physical Therapy program because the master's level had

become the general requirement for entry into the profession. The Business Studies program enabled students to complete the 150 credit hours required by the State Board of Accountancy to take the CPA examination.

The Master of Arts in Instructional Technology responds to the growing technological needs of teachers and trainers in the region."

Stockton's long-range plans for masters programs are very ambitious, with a projected enrollment increase from the current 93 students to 710 by the year 2003. Among the future master's level programs being developed or considered:

The Commission's resolution, approved unanimously, immediately granted Stockton the authority to change its programmatic mission from the bachelor's to the masters degree level, provided that the college initiate no more than one new master's program every two years until at least three more master's programs have been mounted; the sin-

gle exemption from that would be the Master of Arts degree in Holocaust and Genocide Studies. That program is slated to join the Nursing and Occupational Therapy programs in the initial two-year cycle.

Degree Programs offered

- **Master of Science in Nursing**, projected to be offered for the first time in Spring, 1998.
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High school students have access to college credits and programs

New Jersey College Bound Program

As one of its responsibilities, the Commission has oversight of a \$3.0 million College Bound program, which funds 13 programs at NJ colleges and universities enabling them to provide enrichment activities for urban/minority youth in the sixth through twelfth grades. The programs are intended to help these students complete secondary school and successfully pursue higher education in the sciences, mathematics, or technology. The program currently serves approximately 2,300 students, and institutional grants range from \$42,400 to \$938,700. A recent evaluation of the College Bound Program found that the program was generally effective and should be continued, but needed some "fine tuning" to ensure that it focused its limited resources on those students and activities where it could add the most value.

Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF)

The New Jersey EOF was created by the state legislature in 1968 to ensure access to higher education for residents from economically and educationally dis-

advantaged backgrounds. The \$32.8 million program provides financial assistance to individuals, and also funds a variety of campus-based adaptive and academic support services. Each participating institution sets specific criteria for student participation.

Students must make satisfactory academic progress to continue in the program. According to data provided by EOF program administrators, 12,500 undergraduate students at 44 institutions participated in the program during Fall 1996.

The racial/ethnic breakdown of the EOF population is: Black—43%; Hispanic—28%; White/Other—22%; Asian—7%. EOF students comprised over 12 percent of New Jersey's first-time full-time students statewide in Fall 1996, and are at their highest levels ever.

Information provided by the Draft Report and Recommendations on the Capacity of New Jersey's Higher Education System.

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- M.S. in Management Executive Program

NJIT
New Jersey Institute of Technology

A Public Research University
University Heights
Newark NJ 07102-1982
Internet: <http://www.njit.edu>

There's A College For You

NJIT leads enrollment of engineers and technology professionals

NEWARK - New Jersey Institute of Technology leads New Jersey in enrolling and graduating African-American and Hispanic engineers. In three annual national magazine surveys, NJIT is the only New Jersey college or university to rank among the top 15 U.S. schools enrolling and graduating minority engineers.

In addition, a report of the Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) Network identified NJIT as the top university in New Jersey for baccalaureate degrees awarded to "non-Asian minority" students in mathematics, the physical sciences and engineering.

In Money Magazine's 1998 Best College Buys Now, NJIT ranks fifth in the nation in the "University Diversity" category, which includes minority students enrolled in "non-historically black colleges."

In Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education's 1997 Best Colleges for Hispanics, NJIT was ninth nationally in conferring bachelor's degrees on Hispanic students in engineering and engineering technologies. NJIT ranks 9th among the Top 10 schools in the Hispanic Outlook survey.

In Black Issues in Higher Education's 1997 Top 100 Degree Producers, NJIT ranked tenth in the nation in conferring baccalaureate engineering degrees on African-American students and 14th in the nation in conferring baccalaureate engineering degrees

on Hispanic students.

NJIT appeared 10th on the Black Issues African-American list.

Quality Education for Minorities Network results

According to a June 1997 QEM Network report entitled, "Weaving the Web of MSE (Mathematics, Science and Engineering) Success for Minorities: Top Ten College and Universities Report," NJIT was identified as leading all other institutions in New Jersey in the production of minority baccalaureate degree recipients in mathematics, the physical sciences, and engineering.

QEM is a non-profit, Washington, DC-based organization dedicated to improving education for minorities throughout the nation. The group identifies "ensuring that minority students start school prepared to learn" as its primary goal for the year 2000. NJIT's achievement in graduating minority students will be honored at QEM's Seventh Annual Conference, to take place February 6-8, 1998, in Washington.

Bachelor's degrees conferred in 1997 on self-identified African-Americans totaled 67, or 10 percent of all bachelor's degrees conferred on students identifying themselves as being of a particular ethnicity. The group included 28 engineers, 21 engineering technologists, 8 management majors, five com-

puter scientists, four architects, and one mathematician.

Bachelor's degrees conferred in 1997 on self-identified Hispanics totaled 87, or 13 percent of all bachelor's degrees conferred on students identifying themselves as being of a particular ethnicity. The group included 49 engineers, 15 engineering technologists, 11 architects, seven computer scientists, two management majors, two mathematicians, and one student majoring in interdisciplinary studies.

A total of 708 students received bachelor's degrees in 1997. Of these, 38, or 5.4 percent, did not identify themselves as being of a particular ethnicity.

Albert Dorman Honors College enrollment and graduation

The total number of incoming minority freshmen in NJIT's Albert Dorman Honors College increased more than 100 percent over the last four years, rising from four in 1994 to 10 in 1997. Of 32 new sophomore and transfer students in the Honors College, minority students accounted for one quarter. In 1997, minority students accounted for 6 percent of the graduating Honors College students.

Also this year, nine minority students who began their academic careers through NJIT's Educational Opportunity Program for

academically and economically disadvantaged students achieved GPAs of 3.4 or better and were simultaneously enrolled in EOP and the Honors College.

The Albert Dorman Honors College offers one of nation's leading technologically oriented honors programs. Students in the College typically rank in the top 15 percent of their high schools classes and have composite SAT scores of 1250 or better. Average combined math-verbal SAT scores for honors freshman in 1997 was 1310 and more than half ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school classes.

NJIT is a public research university enrolling nearly 8,200 undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students in 73 degree programs through its five colleges: Newark College of Engineering, School of Architecture, College of Science and Liberal Arts, the School of Management and the Albert Dorman Honors College. Research initiatives include manufacturing, microelectronics, transportation, computer science, solar astrophysics, environmental engineering and science, and architecture and building science. U.S. News and World Report's 1998 Annual Guide to America's Best Colleges ranked NJIT among the top 175 national universities. Money Magazine's Best College Buys 1998 rated NJIT as the sixth best value among technology schools.

Brookdale Community College: Higher learning

LINCROFT, NJ—Brookdale Community College, now celebrating its 30th year, is a fully accredited two-year college serving residents of the Monmouth County area.

Brookdale offers more than 600 courses in over 50 degree programs, 30 of which are designed for transfer to a 4-year institution. The College also offers hundreds of noncredit training programs in business and computer skills, fine and performing arts, history, languages, cultures and more.

Brookdale also operates "learning centers" in Asbury Park and Long Branch. These centers provide entry level college courses, courses in English as a Second Language and Adult Basic Education, Displaced Homemakers' Program, varied community activities, and business and computer training classes. The learning centers offer complete Brookdale services including academic counseling, on-site registration, graduate placement and more.

Centers also provide students with help finding financial aid, such as Brookdale's state-funded Educational Opportunity Fund, and scholarships from the Brookdale Foundation and other sources.

Brookdale learning centers in Asbury Park and Long Branch are also now participating in Monmouth County's Workforce Development programs. These "One Stop Career Centers" offer students career descriptions, training and financial aid opportunities, and information on state colleges and universities for students; for job seekers, the Centers provide job listings, resume assistance, job search techniques and other services—all open to the public and free of charge.

Brookdale's Asbury Park Learning Center is at 301 Grand Avenue in Asbury Park (732-224-2780). Brookdale's Long Branch Learning Center is at Third & Broadway in Long Branch (732-224-2757).

Education Key in aspirations of black students

Continued from page A1

130,000.

Nettles noted that "the success of the military in providing equal opportunity to Whites and Blacks should serve as a model for the private sector. The rest of our society has a lot of catching up to do."

Although Blacks and Whites with similar education are likely to be at similar ranks, education levels generally are lower for blacks, and this seems to have limited their advancement. A majority of black military officers attended historically black colleges and universities (BCUs). HBCU

graduates comprise about one-third of the African American officers in the Army and about one-fifth in the Navy and Air Force.

• Annual earnings are comparable for African Americans and whites who have received a bachelor's degree. However, among those with just a high school diploma, the average earnings of blacks are almost one-third less.

"This greater gap between high school and college graduates underscores the value of higher educational achievement for African Americans," Nettles said. "It shows why it is important for Blacks to continue their education."

BROOKDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The County College of Monmouth

in ASBURY PARK
at 601 Grand Avenue
Call (732) 224-2780

in LONG BRANCH
at Third and Broadway
call (732) 224-2757

Brookdale Learning Centers offer:

- ♦ Entry-level college courses
- ♦ Business and computer training classes
- ♦ ESL, Adult Basic Education and GED programs

And now, Brookdale Learning Centers are also "One Stop Career Centers," sponsored by Monmouth County's Workforce Investment Board, with a wide range of workforce development services for area residents.



765 Newman Springs Road
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New Jersey's Premier Cooperative Education College

There's A College For You

Answering the call

New Brunswick Theological Seminary is waiting (and ready!) for you. Do you feel God's calling to prepare for new ministry, but a seminary education seems beyond the realm of possibility? At New Brunswick Seminary, the average student is 44 years old, works full-time and has a family. The entire course offering is available during the evening, but day sessions are available for many core courses, affording students choice and flexibility. Fewer than 25% of the students study full time. If you've heard God's call to pursue pastoral education, consider New Brunswick Seminary, with convenient urban locations in New York and New Jersey.

New Brunswick Theological Seminary is a community of learners made up of professors and students, of women and men, of persons young and old. Just as Christ's Church is a wonderfully diverse body, the New Brunswick Seminary community reflects a small measure of the colorful glory of the whole Church. People at the Seminary come from many ethnic and racial groups and from many Christian denominations. Our students may presently enroll in M. Div. (Master of Divinity) and M.T.S. (Master of Arts in Theological Studies) programs. The Seminary will soon begin enrollment in a new D. Min. (Doctor of Ministry) program focused on

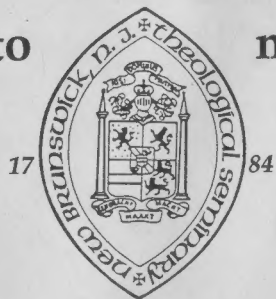
urban ministry.

New Brunswick Theological Seminary is a community of people who seek, by our work and worship, to confess that God created all worlds, entered into covenant with Israel, and in Jesus Christ makes all things new by the power of the Holy Spirit. We are a people united by a common call to proclaim the good news about Jesus Christ in such a way that lives are changed and society is transformed.

New Brunswick Theological Seminary is America's oldest theological school. Since its founding in 1784, it has been an institution of the Reformed Church in America. We rejoice in our continued service to the Reformed Church, even as we offer thanks for students who come to us from many denominations. A total of 25 denominations are represented in our fall 1997 enrollment. More than 75% of the students come from denominations other than the Reformed Church.

The main campus is located in the heart of New Brunswick. The New York location, on the campus of St. John's University, Jamaica, Queens. Both schools are easily accessible by auto or public transportation. Visit the Seminary's web site, on line, at (<http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~mjblake/nbts.html>) or call at (800) 445-NBTS to arrange a campus visit.

Has God called
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An ecumenical community engaged in a single dynamic conversation--exploring our common faith in an environment in which diversity is respected and celebrated.

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main campus - New Brunswick, NJ

New York campus at St. John's University, Queens

CALL TODAY (800) 445-NBTS

OR VISIT OUR WEB SITE

<http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~mjblake/nbts.html>

Career programs offered at Bergen Community College

Each year, approximately 12,000 students of all ages enroll at Bergen Community College on a part-time or full-time basis. Bergen Community College offers three types of degree programs in more than 75 fields of study. Students may earn an Associate in Arts (AA), Associate in Science (AS), or Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree. In addition, the college offers one-year certificate programs which provide specific occupational skills.

Career programs emphasize training needed to enter a chosen field of employment. They are designed for students planning to begin a career immediately after receiving their associate degree.

Transfer programs include a course study which responds to the freshman and sophomore offerings at most colleges and universities. After completing their associate degree at Bergen, many students transfer to a bachelor's degree program in New Jersey and throughout the United States.

Bergen provides special learning opportunities for diverse groups of stu-

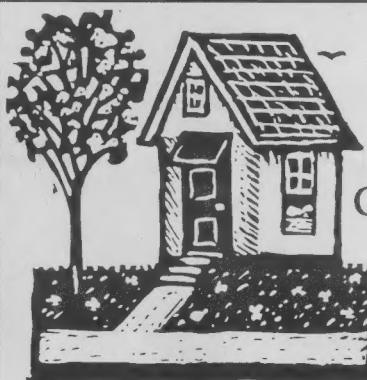
dents. For those students who find it difficult to attend on-campus sessions, courses by television offer a convenient, flexible way to learn at home.

Bergen Community College will be conducting in-person registration for its spring semester at the college's main campus at 400 Paramus Road in Paramus on Thursday, January 8 and Friday, January 9, 1998 from 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The spring semester will run from January 15 until May 11. Courses are offered in a variety of subjects including arts, business, communications, humanities, mathematics, natural sciences, physical education and social sciences. Bergen offers flexible scheduling options to fit any lifestyle.

A \$20 processing fee will be charged and tuition and fees must be paid at the time of registration. Registration is subject to prerequisites and basic skills test results. Degree-seeking students may be eligible for the Hope Scholarship.

For additional information contact (201) 447-7200 or visit www.bergen.cc.nj.us.



BERGEN
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

SPRING SEMESTER

In-Person Registration

Friday, January 8 & 9

9:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Spring Semester • January 15 - May 11

For more information, call the BCC Information Center
at (201) 447-7200.



400 Paramus Road, Paramus, New Jersey 07652
<http://www.bergen.cc.nj.us>

Degree-seeking students may be eligible for the Hope Scholarship.
Consult a tax professional for more information.

There's A College For You

William Paterson University: a new university for a new century

William Paterson University provides a learning experience based on strong teaching and challenging degree programs. This approach, combined with a congenial and supportive atmosphere where the richness of difference is nurtured, forms a community built on common grounds. Our 9,000 students come from all over New Jersey and beyond - from urban, suburban and rural areas - and from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds. Situated on a wooded, 300-acre hilltop located in suburban Wayne, New Jersey, William Paterson is small enough to sustain a community atmosphere, yet large enough to provide the sophisticated educational resources and facilities you need.

Outstanding academic programs, personal support, award-winning faculty,

combined expertise and an excitement for teaching, foster an enthusiastic and rewarding learning environment. The small faculty-student ratio and strong academic, financial and social support, personal attention and mentoring become the foundation for a successful education. In our classrooms, you'll meet professors who understand your background and perspective.

We have 38 full-time African-American faculty members at William Paterson, as well as 17 Hispanic and 36 Asian professors. We offer an impressive variety of courses and majors and our students have the opportunity to use the very latest in lab equipment and computer technology.

A multi-cultural approach

Your concerns are also reflected in our academic offerings. Every undergraduate at William Paterson University takes a class in race and gender as part of our general education requirements. So that our students appreciate the extensive range of human accomplishment, many

departments offer courses that explore Latin American history, politics, language, literature and culture; Asian art, languages and history; and African and African-American history, politics, literature and life.

An enriching environment

The campus also provides a wealth of personal interaction and occasions which recognize the contributions made by our society's many diverse members. Campus organizations and yearly celebrations and activities offer the entire University community the opportunity to appreciate art exhibits, dances, food festivals, lectures, luncheons, movies, music, theater and workshops that actively showcase the multicultural experience.

The opportunity to succeed

Because classroom learning is combined with hands-on experience and a strong career development program our graduates achieve an impressive work record after college. Our Career Development Workforce makes special contact with employers to create intern-

ship opportunities for minority students.

An exciting future

William Paterson University offers numerous scholarships based on scholastic performance and related achievements. Scholarships are available to full-time freshmen, transfers and upper-class students. They range from the newly established Presidential Scholarships to specific grants in the areas of music, biology, nursing and jazz studies. Ten \$1,000 awards and seven \$750 awards are granted specifically to minority students. These, plus Alumni Association awards, enhance the University's commitment to provide quality education at an affordable cost for more students each year.

Top-rate faculty, challenging and rewarding academic, support and mentoring programs, world-class facilities and a thriving social and cultural environment all add up to an excellent choice at an unrivaled value. To learn more about William Paterson University call 973-720-2125 or toll-free 1-888-4WILPAT. Visit the school's web site at www.wilpaterson.edu.

WILLIAM
PATERSON
UNIVERSITY



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University
For a
New Century

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